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How to avoid the nanny nightmare Family Matters, Page 9

Garciaparra AL top rookie Sports, Page 15

UK's richest rock star Arts & Entertainment, Page 18

Index Arts & Entertainment... 18 Business... 11 Crossword... 19 Movies/TV... 19 Opinion... 8 Sports... 15



Dalia Rabin-Felosooff and Leah Rabin visit Yitzhak Rabin's grave at Mt. Herzl yesterday. (Isaac Harari)

Two years after assassination Rabin remembered

Thousands attended a commemorative rally last night on the second anniversary of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination... The government of Israel announces with profound shock...

Earlier in the day, a brief memorial service took place at Rabin's grave on Mt. Herzl for family members, close friends, and MKs... Speaking to reporters afterward, Rabin said that although it was a very sad day for her...

TA District Court rules in libel case: Sharon misled Begin

Ariel Sharon led prime minister Menachem Begin and his government astray during the Lebanon War, and thus his charges of libel against Ha'aretz for saying so are unfounded, Tel Aviv District Court ruled yesterday... The court ordered Sharon - who was not present while the verdict was read - to pay legal and court costs of NIS 35,000.

I'll fight for 20 years - Sharon

Despite his smarting loss in court, a resolute and confident-looking Ariel Sharon vowed yesterday that he would keep on fighting "the libel that Ha'aretz perpetrated, even if it takes me 20 additional years and even if everyone else forgets all about it. I haven't forgotten and I know the truth."



Ariel Sharon (Yael Sorech/Israel Sun)

Friends often counseled him to desist and let things be, he said. "They tell me that much time had gone by and that many people no longer even know what happened then and that others have forgotten. But I can never forget. I am the one who is demanding this inquiry."

The gray areas of war powers

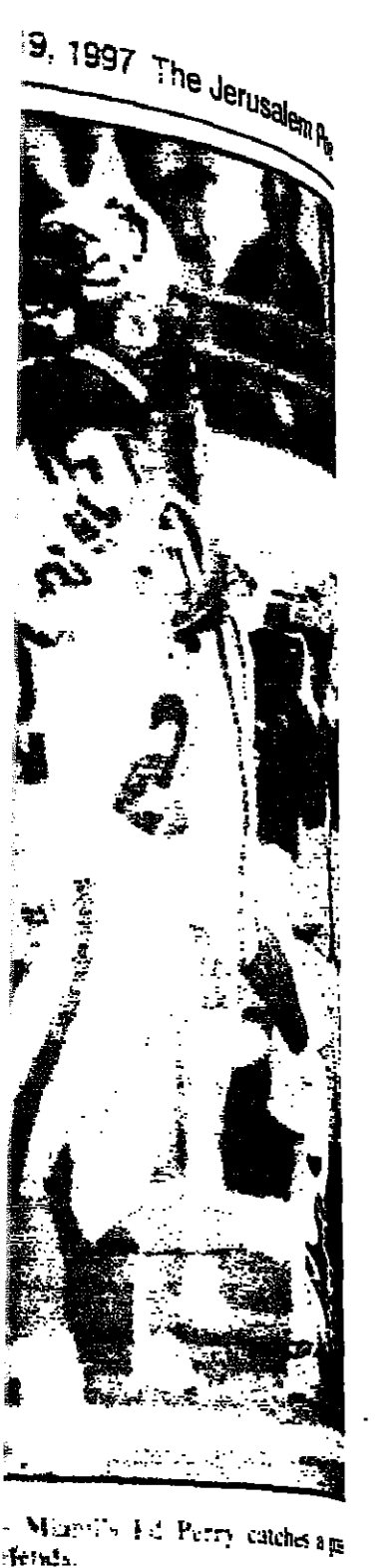
The judgment of the Tel Aviv District Court in Ariel Sharon's libel suit against Ha'aretz and journalist Uzi Benziman raises the issue of civilian oversight over the defense establishment... He qualified his ruling by saying he was not establishing historical facts...

Progress on seaport in talks with Palestinians

WASHINGTON - Israeli-Palestinian negotiations began in earnest yesterday, with progress reported on the issue of establishing a Palestinian seaport in Gaza... Discussions on port security will take place in the region at another time, an Israeli official said.

Iraq extends deadline for US inspectors

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) - Iraq has agreed not to expel any American UN arms inspectors while a visiting UN delegation seeking to overturn Baghdad's expulsion order is in the country... Iraq last week ordered all US members of the UN weapons inspection team - there are six currently in Iraq - to leave by 1 a.m. Baghdad time tomorrow.

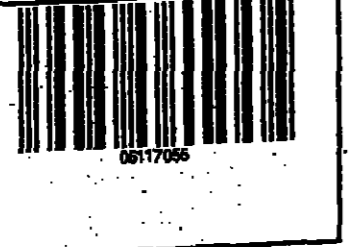


Oppers coach as to Spurs

Oppers had turned down a request... This time I couldn't help because one of the players in London has a high level of talent... Oppers will link up with the coach...

Upsets Coetzee's season finale

Upsets Coetzee's season finale... The writer is a professor of law at the Hebrew University and a former Labor cabinet minister.



Labor: PM must apologize for 'incitement'

By LIAT COLLINS

Instead of uniting the House in remembrance, the Knesset memorial session scheduled for next Wednesday, the Hebrew anniversary of Yitzhak Rabin's assassination, continued to be the focus of bitter recriminations.

Labor MKs, led by whip Ra'anana Cohen, yesterday sent a letter to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu asking that he not address the session unless he publicly apologizes for "his contribution to the atmosphere of incitement that led to the murder." Cohen also said Netanyahu should "apologize for continuing incitement against the Left."

"If you intend to ignore this request, I would thank you in advance for sending one of your ministers [instead] to represent the government at the memorial ceremony," Cohen said. He told Tichon the faction would not

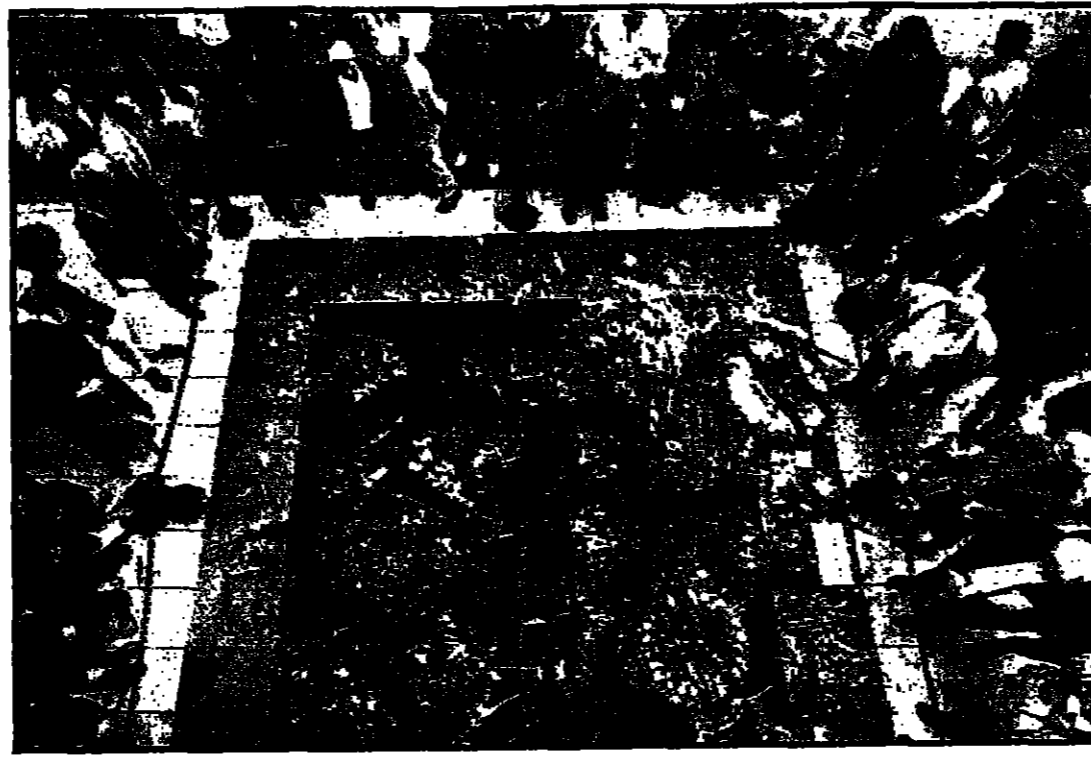
make a protest action in the Knesset but warned he might not be able to stop individual MKs from doing so.

Cohen attached to the letter a copy of a photograph of Netanyahu marching at the head of a protest against the Oslo Accords, in front of a coffin bearing the words: "Rabin is killing Zionism."

Labor Party leader Ehud Barak said: "Netanyahu should look the public in the eyes and apologize." He said as opposition leader, his philosophy is "strong criticism, yes; incitement, no." He referred questions on the likely behavior of Labor MKs in the plenum to Cohen.

MK Uzi Landau (Likud), made a plea not to use the memorial as an opportunity for political attacks but as a warning of where hatred can lead.

Asked about the coffin, he noted that this was a common protest



A crowd gathers yesterday around the site where Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated by Yigal Amir two years ago in Tel Aviv.

device used by students protesting tuition fee hikes and workers protesting dismissals and said the coffin was clearly symbolized the death of Zionism, not an incitement to murder Rabin.

Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism) called on Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon to consider canceling the special session - "out of respect for Rabin's memory" - if decorum could not be assured. "It's better that it not be held at all, rather than it not be

respectable," Ravitz said. The Knesset presidium and faction heads met yesterday and considered a proposal to hold a separate meeting on tolerance and incitement, at which all MKs could express their views.

Schools to mark assassination next Wednesday

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Schools throughout the country will honor the memory of the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin next Wednesday, starting with a flag-lowering ceremony at 8:30 a.m.

Thereafter, schools will conduct activities focusing on Rabin's personality, his achievements, and events surrounding his assassination and its meaning for society. School officials will have a special Education Ministry booklet available, offering advice on possible projects and discussions.

The ministry's Psychological Counseling Service yesterday published guidelines for schools, suggesting that pupils be given the chance to express their feelings on the anniversary.

The recommendations, by Dr. Norman Entin and Hanna Shadmi, include allowing the pupils to find different ways to express their feelings about the significance of

the day, the degree to which they miss Rabin, and the significance of the two years which have passed since his slaying.

They also suggest giving the pupils the means with which to deal with their feelings of anger and frustration related to the assassination. The schools have also been advised to spend time dealing with the issue of disagreements being a legitimate part of a democratic society, and to teach pupils about ways to deal with disagreements and the language of discourse.

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer recommended establishing "think tanks" in each school to determine what kind of programming should be conducted, to include the principal, grade advisers, the school psychologist, and representatives of the parents and the pupils.

"All children should be involved in these activities," Hammer said.

RUSSIAN PRESS REVIEW

By Yusuf Begum

The Russian press this week marked the anniversary of Yitzhak Rabin's assassination by joining the conspiracy bandwagon.

Vesti presents Yevgeny Krafchick's interview with author Barry Hamisch, who gave Vesti the exclusive rights to translate his latest book, *Who Killed Yitzhak Rabin?* Hamisch asserts that Rabin's assassination originated in the US "to save the peace process." According to Hamisch, "Rabin was sacrificed to justify the suppression of the 'national movement' which resulted from the Oslo Accords."

He asserts that in early 1995 Rabin started to show signs of having second thoughts about dealing with the PLO. "He began to talk too much. And drink too much. Perhaps his conscience had awakened."

In some interviews, claims the author, Rabin admitted that George Bush pressed him to start the negotiations, as did [Henry] Kissinger. Hamisch contends there were people who decided "it was time to keep Rabin quiet..."

Asked to appear on a recent *Popolnica* dedicated to Rabin's assassination, his participation was cancelled. "It looks like there is no still place for alternate opinions on Israel TV," says Krafchick.

In *Novosty Nedeli*, the anonymous authors of article "Halacha according to Netanyahu," who use the collective name "The olim forum of Meretz," said, "Two years ago there were extreme right-wing demonstrations in Jerusalem led by Netanyahu, in which demonstrators carried a coffin bearing the sign 'Rabin.' They wielded banners that screamed 'Rabin is a traitor' and 'Rabin is a murderer.' Two weeks later, Rabin was assassinated... We saw such anti-Jewish slogans in the USSR, such as 'Jews forgot what it means to be loyal citizens' and 'Jews: the fifth column.'"

Primakov's visit

Russia aspires to return to the Middle East as a peacemaker, but its relations with Iran and Syria demonstrate, as *Novosty Nedeli*

comments on Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov's visit, that "it is the same Russia that has supported Arab countries against Israel for 50 years." Ephraim Ganor, chief editor of the newspaper, says that "Primakov holds an olive branch in one hand and brandishes ballistic missiles in the other."

In *Ruski Israelyanin*, Piotr Lukimson, discussing this crucial issue, quotes Primakov's denial of Russia's supplying rockets to Iran: "We are not such idiots... The situation there can change at any moment, and rockets can easily be turned 180 degrees." Meanwhile, Lukimson says, a high official of Primakov's team did not rule out the possibility that "some private Russian companies can supply weapons technology to Iran."

Avigdor Eskin in *Vesti* claims that "any clever Israeli politician can see the potential benefit for Israel in Russia's desire to return to the Middle East." He criticizes Israeli policy, which he says "reflects the inertia of old attitudes" and observes that "although Primakov is in charge of foreign policy in Moscow, there are high officials who see Islamic expansionism as a genuine threat."

Moment of truth

Yisrael Ba'aliyah is undergoing a serious internal crisis. The leadership of the local and regional councils, according to *Vesti*, accuse the party administration of "totalitarian methods of management and aversion to openness and democracy." In response to the *Vesti* inquiry, party leader Natan Sharansky expressed surprise at these "unfounded accusations."

Novosty Nedeli's Ganor states that the party should mobilize all its forces to prepare for the 1998 municipal elections. But the members of the central committee are more involved with "turning the upcoming congress into an arena for an irreconcilable fight. Yisrael Ba'aliyah has never been as close to facing the moment of truth as it is now. The municipal elections will be the acid test for the party."

Q&A With MK Michael Kleiner

Nadia Matar interviews

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SHARON
Continued from Page 1
Based partly on
Zionism's future

NEWS
in brief

Doctors strike public hospitals today

Doctors are to strike public, government, and Kapat Holim Chalit hospitals, as well as psychiatric and geriatric institutions today, the Israel Medical Association said yesterday. The doctors will work a Shabbat schedule, and all non-emergency surgery has been canceled. Outpatient clinics will also be closed. The doctors contend the Treasury has reneged on a March agreement to increase the number of physicians' slots at the hospitals. *litm*

General appoints reps for Holocaust fund

Assicurazioni Generali, Italy's largest insurer, said it appointed Israeli trustees to oversee the disbursement of a \$12 million fund to compensate relatives of policyholders who died in the Holocaust. Generali said it was setting up the fund in June. Earlier that month, the Knesset had called for a boycott of Migdal Insurance, a Generali subsidiary, unless the firm dealt with claims by heirs of Holocaust victims who were policyholders. The fund will begin operations in Israel next Tuesday, said Adi Ganani, a spokeswoman for Generali. The trustees will evaluate requests and decide how to disburse money, she said. *Bloomberg*

Four Palestinians arrested

Soldiers and police arrested four Palestinians from El Khader, near Bethlehem, on Monday night. The IDF Spokesman said yesterday a rifle and bullets were found in one of the Palestinians' homes and police had taken them for tests. *Margot Dudkevitch*

Youths caught trying to burn Arab olive grove

Police caught two 16-year-old Jewish youths on Monday as they attempted to set fire to an Arab-owned olive grove, near the settlement Ma'aleh Levona in Samaria. Earlier that month, the Knesset had called for a boycott of Migdal Insurance, a Generali subsidiary, unless the firm dealt with claims by heirs of Holocaust victims who were policyholders. The fund will begin operations in Israel next Tuesday, said Adi Ganani, a spokeswoman for Generali. The trustees will evaluate requests and decide how to disburse money, she said. *Bloomberg*

Landau seeks source of subcommittee leak

MK Uzi Landau, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, is threatening to make members of the subcommittee on secret services undergo a lie detector test to discover the source of a leak on the testimony of Mossad head Danny Yatom to the subcommittee Monday. Channel 1's Amnon Abramovich reported Monday night on Yatom's eight-hour testimony on the Mashaal Affair, although the subcommittee is meant to work in complete secrecy. "We might as well disband the committee if everything said in it leaks out," Landau said. "People will not talk to it if they know everything they say will later be leaked to journalists." *Liat Collins*

Soldiers' trial for jail rebellion postponed

The trial of 18 soldiers accused of staging a jailhouse rebellion over the summer was postponed yesterday pending a High Court ruling on their petition to force the IDF to honor an agreement which guaranteed that they would not be tried for the mutiny. *litm*

Blumenthal: Burg misleading US Jews on conversion bill

By **ARYEH DEAN COHEN**

Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee chairwoman Naomi Blumenthal (Likud) yesterday accused Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg of widening the rift between Israel and the Diaspora, and of spreading disinformation among North American Jews about the conversion issue. During a discussion of the lopsided victory scored by the

Conservative and Reform representatives in elections to the World Zionist Congress last month, Blumenthal said: "The things he [Burg] is saying about the conversion bill are disinformation that does not have pure intentions behind it." Blumenthal said such disinformation leads American Jews to feel they have been shunned and discriminated against, and contributes to their feeling distant from the

State of Israel, without understanding the significance of the bill. "A conflagration has erupted in our relations with American Jews, expressed in the results of these elections, and we must do everything possible to extinguish it," she said. However, Burg asserted that the results reflected frustration, protest, and anger on the part of these Jews, some of it as a result of the conversion bill issue.

Paula Edelstein, of the Israeli Reform Movement, denied there was any disinformation among American Jews. "They feel that Israel is showing contempt for them, so they are reciprocating, and are drifting away from Israel. They feel that Israel is the only state where non-Orthodox Jews are considered second-class citizens, and where they cannot live according to their conscience," she said.

MKs tell police: Take honor killings seriously

By **ESTHER HECHT**

Eight unsolved murders of women in a single city - Ramle - are a phenomenon for which the Internal Security Ministry must give an explanation, MK Tamar Gozansky (Hadash) said yesterday. This demand came at the end of a Knesset Status of Women Committee discussion of so-called family honor killings. Gozansky is committee vice-chairman for the non-Jewish sector.

"We can't expect women [in danger] to turn to the police if they feel the police don't take them seriously," Gozansky said. There is an unwritten black list of women marked for killing, according to Na'ila Awad, coordinator of Il Badil, a coalition of organizations fighting domestic violence. The list includes women who have left their homes to study, as well as women who date Jews, wear "immodest" clothes or are seen smoking. "The police know about the list, but refuse to relate to it," Awad charged.

Police representatives at the meeting said it was difficult to gather intelligence about domestic violence in the Arab sector. According to Awad, murder is just the last step on the via dolorosa many Arab, Druze and Beduin women tread. Incest, beatings and forced marriages are often the precursors.

Changing attitudes is crucial, the participants agreed, but attempts to get Moslem and Christian clerics to denounce such killings in their sermons have met with dismal failure. Clerics invited to the meeting did not even bother to show up.

MK Abdul Wahab Darawshe (Democratic Arab Party) said that local authority heads, MKs and educators also should be enlisted in the struggle.

Dr. Yumis Abu-Rabia warned against assuming Beduin educators have beliefs that differ from those of the population at large.

More Arab women are turning to shelters for battered women throughout the country, and establishing a shelter for them is a top priority, but there are no funds available, said Michal Hanoch Abudat, national supervisor on women's issues in the Social Affairs Ministry.

Expert: Iraqi attack on Israel unlikely

By **DAVID RUDGE**

Iraq is unlikely to launch missile attacks on Israel in the event of further conflict in the Gulf, according to Dr. Michael Eppel of the Middle East department of Haifa University and Oranim College. It is estimated that Iraq still has 15-25 missiles, armed with conventional warheads, which are probably not in very good technical or mechanical condition, said Eppel.

"The possibility of an attack on Israel [in the event of confrontation with the UN] is not very high," he said. "The problem, however, is that [Iraqi President] Saddam Hussein is very unpredictable and therefore we must be aware that there is a certain level of danger."

"The threat from biological and chemical weapons is much greater, but there is no indication that the Iraqis have reached the point of being able to use them effectively and practically. Saddam is preparing for the moment when there will be no international supervision and then he will quickly develop these weapons and bring his missiles up to operational level."

"This is primarily to counter what he sees as the threat from Iran. He would probably only use missiles against Israel in the event of confrontation with the US in order to drive a wedge among the Arab states and embarrass them for siding with the Americans."

Eppel said Saddam's desire to limit international supervision of Iraq's weapons and munitions development is one of the reasons for his latest act of "brinkmanship." "Every few months he creates another crisis of one kind or another,



A soldier cleans a gas mask at a distribution center in a Jerusalem high school this week. Since the crisis with Iraq began, there have been reports that the number of people rushing to update their gas masks has tripled to 6,000 a day. (Text: Arish O'Sullivan; Photo: AP)

er, with the Kurds in the north, near the Kuwaiti border, and now with the US and the UN," he said. "He wants to examine the strength of will of the US and the Security Council and create as much of a rift as possible among the

members and the US-led coalition, while continuing to try to ease economic sanctions on Iraq." "Saddam also wants to try to humiliate the US and highlight its weaknesses, and he is ready to face the risks, including the possi-

bility of retaliatory bombing and a tightening of sanctions. "He has survived in the past and believes he will do so in the future. He can even make use of any retaliatory action for his own position inside Iraq," said Eppel.

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Hussein loyalists to dominate Jordan parliament

By VIJAY JOSHI

AMMAN, Jordan (AP) - Jordanians walked with umbrellas under a steady drizzle yesterday to vote for a new parliament that is expected to be dominated by tribal leaders loyal to King Hussein. State television announced at 7 p.m. (1700 GMT), when the voting booths closed, that 712,000 Jordanians had voted, or 39 percent of the 1.84 million registered voters. It did not say if that was a final figure. In the last elections in 1993, over

800,000 people voted.

A total of 524 candidates, including 17 women, are contesting 80 seats in parliament's lower house, the Chamber of Deputies.

The chamber shares its powers with the king and with the upper house, which comprises 40 members picked by the king.

Hussein, who has absolute control over Jordan, is ensured a pro-government legislature because Jordan's largest opposition party is not participating in the election. The Islamic Action Front is boycotting the balloting to protest govern-

ment policies, including the 1994 peace treaty with Israel.

A low voter turnout could indicate support for the Islamic Action Front.

The boycott, however, will only help stymie the democratic process, according to political analysts.

"The boycott will... weaken the incentive of the regime to initiate any further democratic reforms," said Labib Kamhawi, a professor of political science at the University of Jordan.

Meanwhile, an independent survey of 176 randomly chosen candidates showed that 46% of the candidates supported the

peace treaty with Israel while 38% were opposed, the *Jordan Times* reported.

It also said 64% of the candidates believed the elections will not be free and fair. Fears of poll rigging were raised following complaints by thousands of voters that their voter identity cards had been fraudulently claimed by others. Nobody is allowed to vote without the card.

An estimated 1.9 million of Jordan's 3.8 million people were eligible to vote, but only 1.48 million voter cards have been collected.

The elections are only the third since the king introduced political and econom-

ic reforms in 1989. Before that, Jordan was in a state of emergency following the 1967 Middle East War.

In 1992, Hussein legalized political parties to encourage a multi-party system, but traditional tribal loyalties continue to dominate Jordanian politics.

At least 300 leaders of Jordan's estimated 500 major tribes are running. The pro-government Constitution Party is officially contesting 11 seats and is supporting candidates in 15 others.

Some rebels from the Islamic Action Front, a few leftists and pan-Arab nationalists are standing as independents, con-

testing at least 23 seats.

In the last elections, the Front had won 15 seats by creating an Islamic-based constituency that cut across tribal lines.

Most tribal leaders owe allegiance to King Hussein, who in his 45-year reign has given them senior government and army posts, free education and health services and large tracts of lands to settle their once-nomadic people.

Under the constitution, the king appoints a government, regardless of the largest party in parliament. As part of his powers, the king also can veto bills and dissolve parliament and rule by decree.

Few major surprises expected in US elections

By NED KILKELLY

NEW YORK (AP) - Republicans aimed to keep control of top jobs in Virginia, New Jersey, and New York City and hoped to thwart a Democratic challenge in a closely watched congressional race in the city's smallest borough, in yesterday's Election Day which was expected to generate few close races.

In addition to New York, where polls suggested Republican incumbent Rudolph Giuliani would win re-election in a landslide, other cities choosing mayors included Atlanta, Houston, Seattle, Miami, and Minneapolis.

Among the hot topics appearing on ballot propositions across the country were assisted suicide in Oregon, the medicinal use of marijuana and gay rights in Washington state, and affirmative action in Houston.

On the final day of campaigning Monday, President Bill Clinton stumped in Virginia for Democrat Don Beyer, who lost ground in recent weeks to Republican Jim Gilmore after the two had run neck-and-neck for months. The winner succeeds Republican George Allen, barred from running for a second term.

Gilmore pulled ahead - by as many as 12 percentage points in the latest polls - by proposing to slash the hated property tax that local governments assess on personal cars and trucks. Clinton slammed his proposal as jeopardizing public school funding, but Gilmore countered by saying critics "just don't get it."

"Tomorrow, send them a message: It is not selfish for Virginians to have their own money to improve the lives of their own

children," Gilmore said at a Monday rally in Richmond.

Political analysts questioned the effectiveness of Clinton's 11th-hour appearance, since he failed to carry Virginia in either of his presidential elections.

Robert Holsworth, a political scientist at Virginia Commonwealth University, said some Democrats in the state viewed Clinton's visit as "more of a eulogy than a pep talk."

Many said the same thing about Clinton's weekend visit to New York on behalf of Democratic mayoral nominee Ruth Messinger, the Manhattan borough president whose woefully underfunded and spiritless campaign was given no chance of denying Giuliani a second term.

Clinton's appearance in the borough of Staten Island, though, was seen as an attempt by the Democrats to negate the Republican Party's huge financial advantage in the nation's only congressional race.

After a poll late last month showed Democratic state assemblyman Eric Vitaliano in a virtual dead heat with Republican city councilman Vito Fossella, the national Republican Party spent about \$800,000 in television ads attacking Vitaliano. Subsequent polls showed a boost in Fossella's favor.

The national Democratic Party has been handcuffed in offering financial help to its candidates across the country this year because of its lingering \$15 billion debt from last year's presidential race.

Nonetheless, Democrats viewed the Staten Island race as an early test of their chances of wresting control of the House of

Representatives from the Republicans next year. Republicans now control Congress 227-205, with one independent and two vacancies.

The Republicans have fought to hold on to the seat - Susan Molinari resigned it this year to pursue a television career - by bringing in George Bush, Bob Dole, and several congressmen, including former entertainer Sonny Bono, to campaign for Fossella.

"This is a very important bellwether," said Rep. David Dreier, a California Republican. "When we win this, it's a clear signal we're going to hold on to the majority."

In New Jersey, the only other state electing a governor this year, Clinton also campaigned over the weekend for Jim McGreevey, who turned what was expected to be an easy race for Republican incumbent Christie Whitman into a tight contest.

McGreevey, 40, the mayor of Woodbridge and a state senator, came within striking distance of Whitman by hammering away on two perennial Jersey gripes: The nation's highest average auto insurance rates - \$1,013 per car - and rising property taxes.

The 51-year-old governor responded by reminding voters that she not only kept her campaign promise to cut the state income tax 30 percent, but did it in two years instead of three. The latest polls indicated a Whitman lead ranging from two to nine percentage points.

Whitman had to worry about a potential spoiler, Libertarian Murray Sabrin, who attracted some support from the Republican right because of his staunch anti-abortion stand.

NZ poised to get 1st woman premier

By SIMON LOUSSON

WELLINGTON (Reuters) - Jenny Shipley, a leading light in New Zealand's conservative National Party, was poised yesterday to become the country's first female prime minister.

In a slickly executed coup, the 45-year-old minister forced Prime Minister Jim Bolger to make the surprise announcement of his retirement and end his seven-year reign in anti-climax.

After a one-hour meeting, the National Party, which governs with support from the nationalist New Zealand First Party, selected Shipley unopposed as its new leader.

"I hope it will provide us with an opportunity to bring a fresh sense of purpose to the party and, I hope, to the coalition and to the country," Shipley told reporters.

From a farming background, Shipley belongs to National's right and is considered to the right of Bolger. But she also has a reputation as a prag-

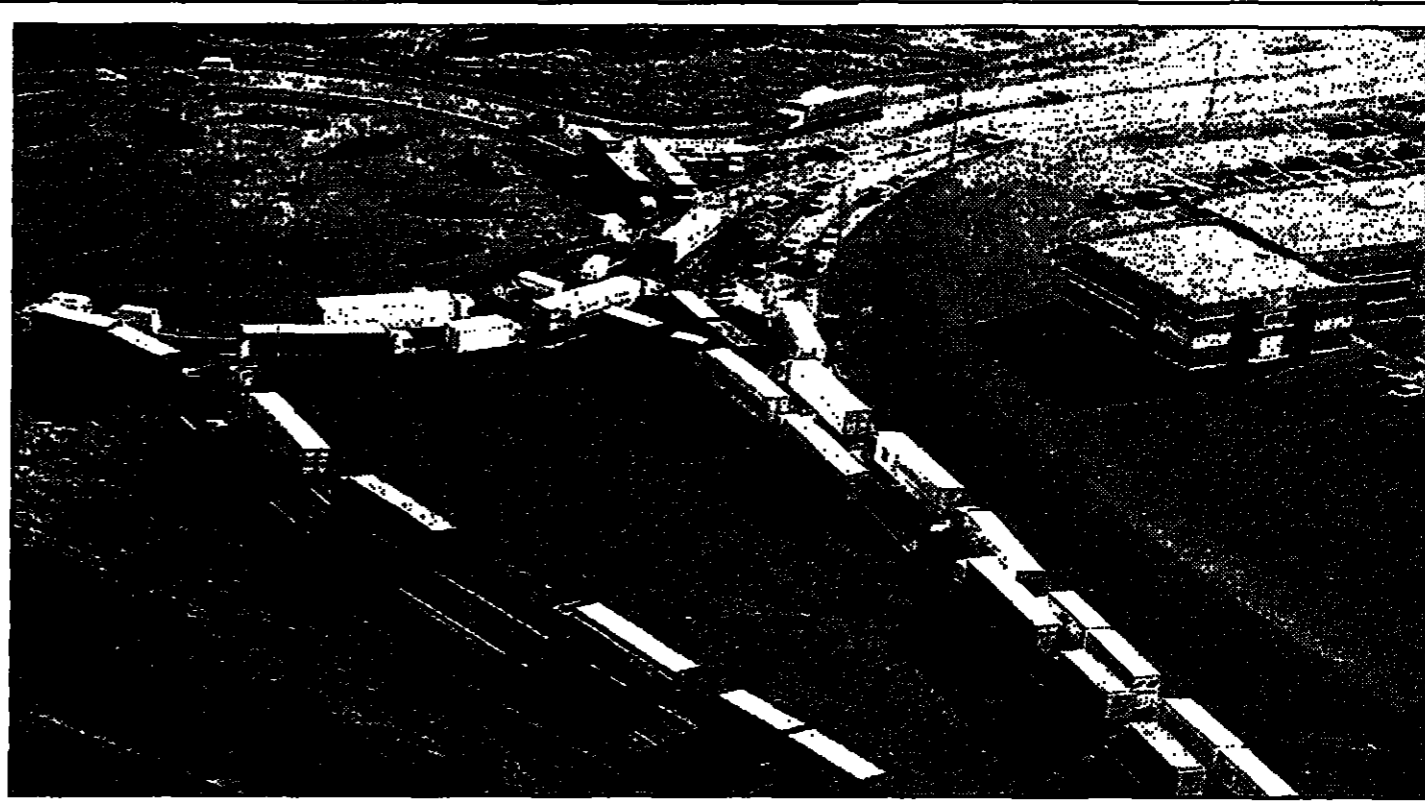
matist. Imposing, and with the broad shoulders of a swimmer, Shipley's rapid rise into the political frontline started when she leaptfrogged to the National Party frontbench just two years after entering politics in 1987.

Appointed Social Welfare Minister after National swept to power in 1990, the former school teacher led the dismantling of much of what was left of New Zealand's welfare state.

The policy was unpopular and, along with her mentor, the right-wing former finance minister Ruth Richardson - one of the country's most vilified figures - Shipley saw protesters opposed to the welfare cuts burning her effigy in the streets.

But satirists caricatured her as the toughest in a flinty-faced administration that held firm, and kept applying a dose of unpalatable monetarist medicine.

After the 1993 election, when Richardson was dumped, Shipley survived and moved on to the more challenging health portfolio where she had limited success selling reforms to the public.



The truck stops here
Striking French truckers block a highway in France yesterday. Truckers all over the country continue to obstruct roads and gasoline depots in reaction to the failure of talks on wages and work conditions. (Reuters)

Thai PM to step down amid economic crisis

By JIRAPORN WONGPATHOON

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) - Thai Prime Minister Chavalit Yongchaiyudh said he expects to resign by the end of the week, after parliament passes key financial and political decrees.

Chavalit has been under intense pressure to step down because of his administration's failure to effectively tackle the country's economic crisis during its year in office. Attempts at financial reform have been stymied by political infighting among members of his coalition government.

Investors gave embattled the premier a rousing send-off yesterday as markets celebrated his impending departure with major rallies.

Following Chavalit's surprise announcement that he would resign later this week, the baht surged more than five percent to 38.60/80 per

dollar from Monday's close of 40.90/41.00 in the onshore market, while the stock market jumped nearly 7%.

Chavalit's remarks indicated that he would resign to become a regular member of parliament rather than dissolve the house and call a new election, which is an alternative.

If he resigns as planned, the six parties making up his coalition would be expected to agree on a successor.

Representatives of the parties were to hold a strategy meeting. If they cannot agree on a candidate to succeed Chavalit, the opposition could offer one.

Trairong Suwannkhiri, a member of parliament from the opposition Democrat Party, said it was ready to form a government.

In the past four months, the national currency, the baht, has fallen in value from 25 to the dol-

lar to a historic low of 41 to the dollar last Friday. Some analysts were predicting it could drop as low as 50 baht to the dollar by year's end.

Thailand's stock exchange has also slumped, hitting an eight-year low. Chavalit's announcement was reported after the close of trading Monday. The baht strengthened slightly during the day, while there was negligible movement in the stock market.

Chavalit said he plans to step down after Parliament ratifies six emergency decrees providing the legal framework for a financial restructuring program as well as new election laws complementing Thailand's new reformist constitution.

The legislation is expected to be formally passed tomorrow. After the laws are passed, said Chavalit. "I

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Much ado about zeros

Just how justified is the panic about the millennium bug?

By GREG MILLER

One after another, the speakers stood before rapt audiences and conjured images of millennial Armageddon. "This is a national emergency," said one. "I'm very worried about the ability of a country to defend itself when it has no electricity."

"Everything is going to fall apart," said another. "I'm going to the bank to take out all my money, buy wood because the heat won't work, go home and lock myself in."

A doomsday religious cult? A paranoid militia movement? No, technology professionals at a recent San Francisco conference on the Year 2000 computer problem.

Apocalyptic scenarios permeate speeches, news coverage and even casual conversation about the monumental computer glitch. The forecasts are gripping, frightening — and probably way off.

Ask the experts combing the millions of lines of code that course through the nation's businesses and government agencies. They will tell you that the Year 2000 problem — the inability of some computers to handle 21st century dates — is both real and daunting.

But they also will tell you it is awash in hype: Planes will not drop from the sky. Nuclear reactors will not melt down. Financial institutions will not freeze.

"It's going to be a dud," said David Starr, the chief information officer at Reader's Digest, and a former technology officer at General Motors, ITT and Citicorp.

"The fuse is going to go down to 2000, and we're going to wake up and nothing will have happened."

Starr's optimism is jarring in the face of headlines, such as a recent news magazine cover that predicted Jan. 1, 2000, would be "The Day the World Shuts Down."

Starr's outlook is shared by others in similar positions at some of the nation's largest companies — including banks, car makers and utilities — as well as trade associations, regulatory offices and government agencies.

Confronting presumed disaster, they are calm and collected. Few expect more than minor disruptions for customers and employees. Many say their critical computer systems don't pay attention to the date and are the least susceptible. Most have been working on the Year 2000 problem for years and expect to finish early.

None of the executives, analysts and experts interviewed for this article would say the problem is a myth. On the contrary, the world's computer resources are being strained as never before.

But they all agreed that software companies, consultants, speakers, authors and even some computer systems managers stand to benefit from the Year 2000 problem, and have an incentive to exaggerate the threat.

As one executive put it, "It's in some people's interest to say the sky is falling." All this over two lousy digits.

The Year 2000 problem stems from a space-saving technique

adopted by programmers decades ago, when computer memory was a precious commodity. Instead of using four spaces to record a year, they used two: 1968, for example, was recorded as 68.

Unless fixed, these programs won't know what to do on Jan. 1, 2000. Some may assume time has skipped back to 1900 and spit out erroneous data. Others may gag on the incomprehensible date and lock up.

Individually, the date fields are easy to repair. But they are buried in billions of lines of code around the world.

"It's like weeding a garden," said Sally Katzen, who oversees federal Year 2000 efforts for the Office of Management and Budget. "You just have to get in there and pull the weeds."

The weed-pulling started two years ago at Pacific Gas & Electric, one of California's largest utilities. John Greer, manager of computer systems, said the San Francisco-based company is on schedule to finish by the end of 1998.

"We had a magazine call us, and they were milking us to tell them that everything would turn black," he said. "But it's not going to happen." That's partly because the computer systems that manage the delivery of electricity are the least vulnerable.

"Our automated systems tell power plants to come on or off to meet demand," Greer said. "All of that is based on monitoring physical conditions — current, voltage and frequency. They're not looking at what day of the year it is."

Most nuclear reactors aren't even operated by computer, said Jared Wermiel, chief of the controls branch at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Like hospitals, nuclear plants have backup systems that use diesel generators. And safety mechanisms respond to changes in temperature, pressure or power, not the instructions of a computer.

Like most companies, Pacific Gas & Electric's (PG&E) Year 2000 problems are centered in its mainframe computer systems that track bills, payroll and other financial documents that depend on dates. But even that repair work is proceeding better than expected.

Early estimates that the project would cost \$42 million have been lowered to about \$30m, partly because in searching for Year 2000

glitches, PG&E has stumbled onto many aging computer systems it can scrap altogether.

Southern California Edison also is ahead of the game. "There will be no impact on Edison's power grid," said Eric Trapp, manager of its Year 2000 effort.

Fixing the problem will never be considered cheap, especially since it offers little payoff other than the privilege of continued existence.

Some worldwide cost estimates for reprogramming or replacing affected computers are as low as \$50b. But most are in the \$200b range. That's what International Data Corp. concluded, for example, after surveying 500 companies last year on their Year 2000 spending plans.

But the estimates that get the most attention are substantially higher, and are provided by two consulting firms that stand to profit from the Year 2000 problem: the Gartner Group and Software Productivity Research.

Gartner, which helps design repair strategies, predicts the total bill for Year 2000 problems worldwide could approach \$600b. That number has been cited repeatedly by the media, industry pundits and members of Congress.

But the Gartner analysts who produced the estimate acknowledge that it is little more than a guess, one they believe has about a 70 percent chance of being right.

Gartner's forecast was made two years ago, and does not account for new software tools that automatically comb through programs to find the problem date fields. Further, it includes the cost of replacing hardware and software that companies and governments planned to replace anyway.

Gartner's estimate seems downright threadbare compared to others. Capers Jones, chairman of Software Productivity Research in Burlington, Mass., is about to publish a book that puts the total bill at \$3.6t.

Such huge numbers are hard to fathom considering that most companies say they are not allocating any extra money to fix the Year 2000 problem, and are earmarking less than 10 percent of their annual technology budgets.

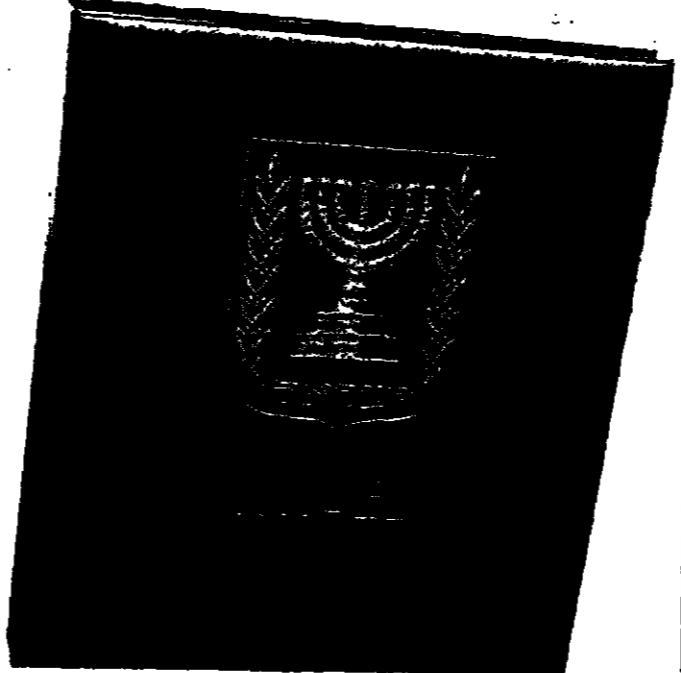
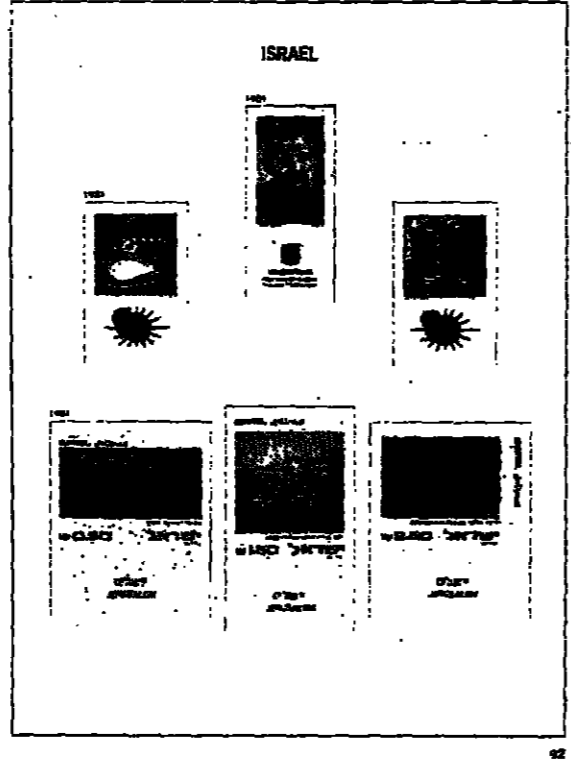
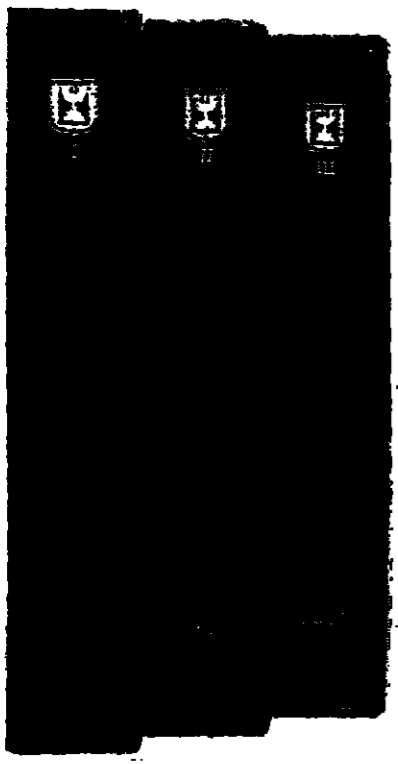
But Jones said much of the bill will come after the turn of the century, when he predicts that businesses will spend \$800b undoing Year 2000 screw-ups and fending off lawsuits. (Los Angeles Times)



Remembering a revolution

Russian Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov (third from right) brings flowers to Lenin's tomb yesterday ahead of Friday's 80th anniversary of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution. (AP)

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Egyptians believe Diana was murdered

By JOHN LANCASTER

CAIRO — Judging from the local press, Egyptians are under constant threat from sinister foreign forces that seek to corrupt their morals, undermine their economy, and defame their Moslem faith.

Not surprisingly, most of these alleged conspiracies originate in Israel, which stands accused here of flooding Egyptian markets with aphrodisiac chewing gum and deliberately infecting Egyptian young people with AIDS, among other things.

But now, it seems, Israel has some new competition in the conspiracy business: the British royal family.

Since Princess Diana and her Egyptian suitor, Dodi Fayed, died August 31 in a Paris car crash, Egyptian publishers have churned out a half-dozen books based on the chilling, if wholly unsubstantiated, claim that the two were killed on orders from Buckingham Palace. By this account, the royal family could not countenance the idea that the princess might marry a Moslem.

Nearly two months after the crash, Egypt's burgeoning tabloid-style press continues to offer regular installments on the same theme. One of Egypt's best-known film directors, Khairy Beshara, plans a movie on the star-crossed couple's short and tragic romance that will focus on "the nature of women, using Diana as an example, in a society filled with tradition." The royal family, he added, will serve as the "symbol" of unyielding tradition.

He will not point fingers, he said, but will "give people all the information and let them draw their own conclusions."

"The world still needs to know what really happened that night," the weekly *Dustour* newspaper recently intoned.

While a few Egyptian commentators have poked fun at the theory, the dominant response among Egyptians has been uncritical acceptance. Their reaction sheds light on several important aspects of the Egyptian national character — in particular, its deep and abiding suspicion of the West and its hypersensitivity to any perceived slights to the Moslem faith.

"They would never let Diana marry a Moslem," said Abdel Nabi Ali, 32, a fruit vendor in the upscale riverfront neighborhood of Zemalak. "God will not forgive them for how they treat Arabs. The only reason they killed the couple was because they were getting married."

Added Hassan Salah, 56, an upholsterer: "They are not fooling anyone. How can they allow an Arab to enter the royal circle? We aren't good enough for them."

That's why they call us the Third World."

Egypt's susceptibility to conspiracy theories is not entirely without foundation. The history of the Middle East is rife with real-life conspiracies, from the palace intrigues of the Ottoman era to Israel's botched attempt last month to assassinate a Hamas leader in Jordan by injecting him with an exotic poison.

Many Egyptians, moreover, were miffed by the refusal of their former colonial ruler to grant citizenship to Fayed's father, Mohamed Fayed, owner of Harrods department store in London. They also felt slighted by Western media reports that treated the death of his son as little more than a footnote to that of Diana.

Reports of a plot to kill Dodi and Diana surfaced within days of the accident. "British intelligence killed her to save the throne, just as the CIA killed Marilyn Monroe at the same age," columnist Anis Mansour wrote in Egypt's leading newspaper, *al-Ahram*. "When it comes to marrying a Moslem from whom she might have borne a boy named Mohammed or a girl named Fatemah and that Moslem child would be the brother of the king of England, the guardian of the church, there had to be a solution."

Some Egyptian commentators have mocked their countrymen's penchant for believing the worst. The *al-Ahram Weekly*, for example, dryly comments on the failure of one sensation-mongering author to "implicate the French company that built the tunnel in which the murder took place."

(The Washington Post)

مكتبة القدس

Latin America isn't Asia

Having graduated the 1995 peso crisis, South America's major economies are weathering the financial storm which wreaked havoc on the other side of the globe

By ANTHONY FAIOLA

BUENOS AIRES — On the surface, it seemed like the Asia Crisis Revisited, with Spanish and Portuguese subtitles.

Panicked investors in Latin America sparked billions of dollars' worth of losses on Latin stock markets last week. In Brazil — the hardest-hit nation and the region's largest — speculators tried to force the devaluation of the local currency, the real, causing the Central Bank to double interest rates overnight.

But experts caution that while Brazil's troubles may yet worsen, possibly touching off a regional economic slowdown, the foundations of most other Latin American economies — including those of Argentina, Chile and Mexico — are far more sound than the Asian countries now in the grips of fiscal chaos.

Experts attribute that partly to the 1994 Mexican peso crisis that forced many countries to implement conservative banking rules and fiscal policies.

"Latin America has already learned its lesson," said Carlos Kawall, chief economist for Citibank in Sao Paulo, Brazil. "We're not looking at another Asia in Latin America."

But that does not mean things cannot take a turn for the worse, or that there are not significant risks in the region, which has lured billions of dollars in investment from US and international companies in the 1990s. The decade has been marked by shifts toward free-market economies and the privatization of state-run industries.

Brazil, in particular, still faces major economic hurdles. And it remains the wild card that could yet bring the castle tumbling down as other regional economies increasingly become linked to the nation that represents half of Latin America's industrial output.

Brazil still has a high trade deficit and an overvalued currency, making it harder to sell its products abroad. The government's decision to raise interest rates — to 40 percent from 20% annually — will also make it harder for foreigners to finance the billions still needed to privatize the state-run industries.

Economists caution that leaving interest rates too high for too long could cause a national recession and increase unemployment from 5.5% to at least 7%. At the very least, analysts say last week's actions will slow Brazil's growth



While the Brazilian stock market took a pounding — and the country's troubles may yet worsen — most other Latin American economies are far more sound than the Asian countries now in the grips of fiscal chaos. (AP)

to between 2% and 3% this year from the 5% initially predicted.

Indeed, some department stores in Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro already have announced plans to curtail credit starting Monday, temporarily halting the long-term installment loans that have become so popular.

"It's a sobering effect," said Roberto Alemann, a financial analyst in Buenos Aires. "It's saying 'wake up' to Brazil. They still need to take additional steps to downsize government and make tax and pension reforms that would help ensure its economic future."

Yet, experts say, when Brazil's economy is compared to some of the Asian tigers, its fundamentals are more sound. Take, for example, Brazil's current account deficit, a measure analysts use to assess national economic health. Brazil's stands at 4.3% of its gross domestic product. And while 2% or lower is considered healthy, Thailand's current account deficit soared to

8% just before its economic crisis.

And although some smaller banks had liquidity problems after last week's crisis, there is no evidence the Brazilian banking industry has made the kind of outrageously speculative loans on real estate and factories that were made in Asia, which became one of the largest reasons for the collapse.

"There is a more solid banking system in Brazil, and in most of Latin America, than there is in Asia," said Daniel Tassan-Din, head of research for Deutsche Morgan Grenfell Inc. in Buenos Aires. "In Asia, they discovered the Central Bank of Thailand was playing in the gold markets. Private banks were giving out speculative loans on overvalued development projects. That kind of thing isn't happening here."

Although the Brazilian Central Bank was forced to spend almost 15% of its cash reserves to shore up the real last week, it still maintains far more reserves than its

Asia counterparts. "Brazil could still pay off its entire short-term national debt with what's left of its cash reserves," said Citibank's Kawall. "Asia is more highly leveraged." Meanwhile, other countries in the region, specifically Argentina, Mexico and Chile, stand on even firmer fiscal ground — mostly from weathering the Mexican peso crisis in 1994.

In Argentina, where economic growth is expected to reach 8% this year, a strong, consolidated banking system and conservative Central Bank resulted from the Mexican crisis. Argentina's Central Bank has signed an agreement with international banks to secure \$6.1 billion to cover deposits in case of a huge withdrawal from the system. The level of national cash reserves also remains high: The Central Bank could cover 33% of the total private deposits in the Argentine banking system, almost double its capacity during the peso crisis.

The country also already made many tough government downsizing decisions that reduced pressure on the national budget. Chile, the region's economic star because of its high economic growth and aggressive free-trade moves, has developed a complex financial system that limits the amount of foreign capital that can leave the country in a short period of time. Such measures make huge investor flight, as seen in Asia, difficult at best.

Mexico is slowly emerging from its worst recession in 60 years in the aftermath of the peso crash. But economic analysts said that safeguards and precautions initiated as a result helped brace Mexico for last week's global chain reaction and left the country's economy relatively unscathed.

Three years ago, Mexico faced many of the problems now troubling Asian nations: runaway inflation, overvalued currency, a weak banking system, high national debt and heavy dependence on short-term foreign investments. Today, inflation is a fairly moderate 15%, the peso has been one of the world's most stable currencies this year, and the nation has sharply curbed its foreign debt and encouraged more long-term foreign investment.

Mexican economists and government officials remain nervous, however, because while the economy is recovering steadily overall, middle- and lower-class Mexicans have seen far less improvement in their economic condition since the crash. (The Washington Post)

Sifting the debris

The prime minister of Thailand is the first victim of this year's Asian flu — the virus being financial, the casualty fortunately only political.

Since modern stock market crashes have become "corrections," fatal leaps from office windows happen only in cartoons, and Prime Minister Chaovalit Yongchaiyut is merely resigning.

Real Asian flu used to be one of those unpredictable winter events. It would sweep out of the Orient, lay half the world low for a week, then vanish just as mysteriously, leaving behind some lingering aches, a few sniffling and long boring anecdotes about how one got it, endured it, and fought it off.

Once or twice a century it would strike hard, bringing heavy fatalities. This, like the 1929 stock market crash, would be nothing to make light of and would leave years of grief in its wake.

Science and vaccination have tamed the most vicious Asian flus. So far. Electronic science and computer circuit-breakers have done much the same for stock market crashes. So far.

Trendy dabblers

The loud sneezes and groans of agony from last week's global epidemic are subsiding and the healthier patients are recovering (Australia's market has made a still rising 10 percent recovery in two days). To switch metaphors, it may now be safe to take some tentative steps into the debris to survey the damage wrought by this "correction." Tentative, minimum-knowledge dabblers in the stock markets and in the trendy "emerging markets" have been taught that other trendy phrases, like "globalization," actually mean something.

Emerging means emerging, not emerged. Doesn't anybody remember how long it took Europe and the Americas to emerge fully? Global also means global. When speculators rattled the ringgit — which most of us had never heard of — and the tiny vibrations traveled via Thailand to be amplified on the great Asian sounding-board of Hong Kong, it wasn't long before the whole globe was ringing like one of those cartoon cats hit by a falling anvil.

And did anyone ever expect to see a headline saying "Asian storm batters Brazil?" (Brazil doubled its basic interest rate on Friday from 20 to 40 percent to prop up its currency.)

Chattering classes

Another lesson which nearly everyone had learned, and then forgotten, is that in economics there are no experts, only analysts. For months, the chattering expert classes have filled the 24-hour screens of the CNN, NBC and BBC business channels, actually debating the stability of the runaway Wall Street Dow

index. Name one person who predicted that it would be Hong Kong that would crash, bringing the mighty Dow and London FTSE down through the hole in the floor.

The chastened experts have again become the mere analysts they are, explaining with hindsight why it should have been obvious all along — just as they did with even less credibility after the Dow-led 1987 crash nobody predicted. So, after it all races past, who is left on the sickbed? In the first place, there is no guarantee the worst is over yet.

What was wrought in Asia could well be heading for Latin America now and, even if forewarned is forearmed, it could still be a rough ride.

In Asia, an investor's best bet probably is to make a contribution to the Save the Tiger fund. That's the furry one — no one is going to be rushing out to buy paper tigers for a long time.

Silent clank

In the hierarchy of disaster, Thailand is probably the worst hit if we look at the collapse of Asian currencies against the US dollar rather than at the gyrations of stock markets. Over the past four months the Thai currency lost almost 40% of its value. It was followed by Indonesia (33%), Malaysia (27%), Philippines (24%), Singapore (9.5%) and South Korea (8%).

The currency of Hong Kong, where the great crash (er, correction) began, has scarcely moved — because being pinned to the US dollar, it's not allowed to, and that makes it very expensive for speculators to attack.

Taiwan too weathered the storm better than many, both on its stock market and in its currency. Taiwan is buffered by massive foreign currency reserves — with 21 million people it still has \$90 billion in the vaults.

The Asian country that suffered least, of course, is mighty Japan. But in the silence after the storm, a piece of plaster could be heard falling off its wall yesterday with the collapse of Sanyo Securities, an important mid-level broker from who the banks and insurance companies pulled away the props. (No relation to the well-known Sanyo. It's a common Japanese name meaning "three seas," which is as good an economic metaphor for Japan's position between Asia and the United States as any.)

A final footnote. Most previous market crashes, when seen on long-term graphs of equity performance, look like mere blips. In fact, they do look like "corrections," as the chart catches a deep breath before climbing the next steep hill.

Is this a hint to dive in now and place your bets for the next upward surge? Certainly not. If I knew anything about predicting the markets, do you think I'd be sitting here writing a column for a living?

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

Who is the Messiah?

The Messiah our righteousness has turned from us, we have been smitten and there is none to justify us.

Our iniquities and the yoke of our transgressions takes he upon himself and he is smitten for our transgressions.

He lays on his own shoulder our sins to find forgiveness for our iniquities. By his stripes we are healed, that he might create an eternal new creation.

(From the Yom Kippur Musaf, Eshkol Publishing, Jerusalem. Compare Isaiah chapter 53.)

If our Jewish tradition attributes Isaiah chapter 53 to the Messiah - why should we claim otherwise?

Yeshua is Israel's Messiah

The Messianic Congregational Action Committee
(The Committee working against the bill for religious censorship in Israel.)

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by Beth Elon

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Confront Saddam

To call Iraq's Saddam Hussein a bully is really to give him too much credit. Saddam's attempt to tweak the United States by turning away American inspectors on a United Nations team is more akin to a toddler testing his parents. Though parents must not use force, any parent knows that the consequences of not somehow establishing their authority. In Iraq's case, the consequence will be a strengthened Saddam Hussein with hidden weapons of mass destruction.

The United States is portraying Saddam's latest gambit as a challenge to the United Nations. It certainly is that, since UN operations all over the globe would be jeopardized if citizens of an individual country - in this case the US - can be removed from an inspection team mandated by the Security Council. The American inspectors are not in Iraq as Americans but as members of UNSCOM, a UN organization created to enforce UN resolutions.

The US, however, cannot afford to act as if Saddam has only taken on the United Nations, and not the US itself. Not only were Americans singled out, but Saddam threatened to shoot down American U-2 reconnaissance aircraft - not too credible a threat, but a threat nonetheless.

As much as we tend to act as if the UN were a fully independent entity, it is no more than the sum of its member nations. Since it is the United States that has - to its credit - taken upon itself the maintenance of the UN's backbone on this issue, it is the US that is the primary target of Saddam's challenge.

Maintaining that backbone has not been easy. If it were not for Saddam's exquisite sense of timing, the US might have eventually succumbed to the relentless pressure from the French, Russians, and Chinese to prematurely lift the sanctions regime. America's increasing isolation in the Security Council no doubt led Saddam to think he could get away with singling out the US inspectors. Now, even those countries seeking to loosen the reins on Saddam have rallied around the US position, and the Western coalition against Saddam has been reconstituted.

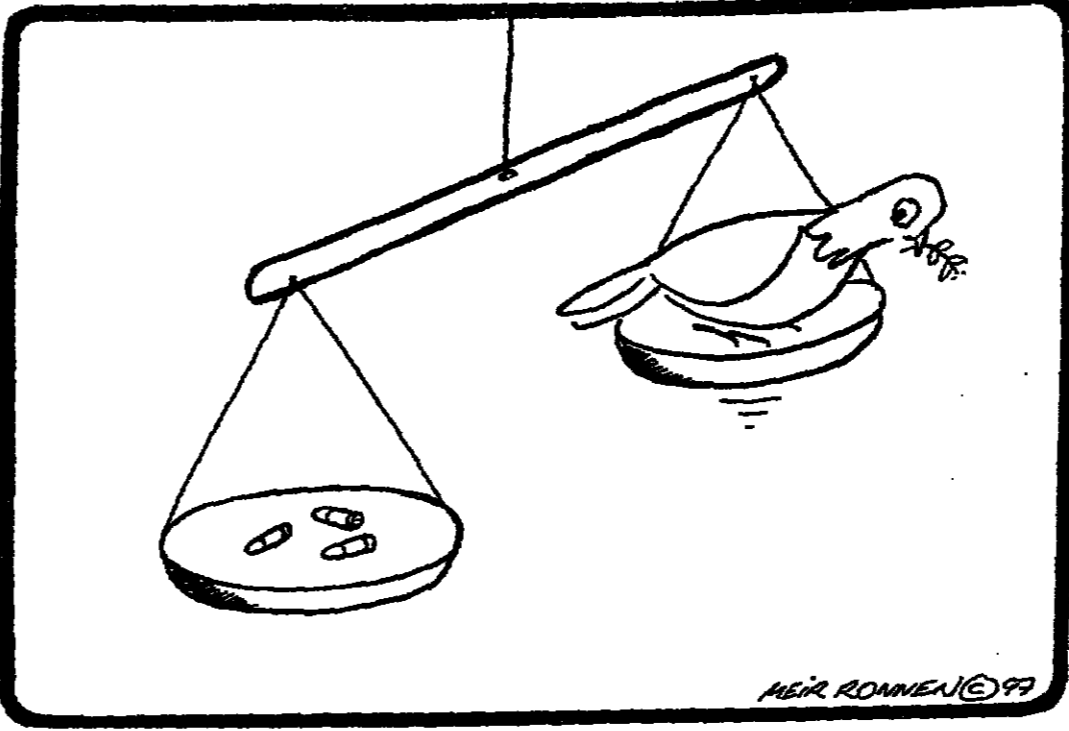
The question is whether this new-found Western unity will be allowed to dissipate and leave Saddam victorious, or whether the US and its allies will learn from their mistakes. The current crisis, for example, is clearly not only the bitter fruit of the division sown by nations itching to do business with Saddam, but of the inadequate responses to the last two crises.

In June, the UN Security Council threatened to take action against Iraq by October if Saddam did not stop harassing the inspection teams, then led by Rolf Ekeus. On October 6, new UNSCOM head Richard Butler reported that the harassment had continued, particularly against inspectors searching for biological and chemical weapons. The US and Britain then sought a resolution slapping an international travel ban on Iraqis, but were forced to back down in the face of veto threats from France, Russia, and China.

A perhaps even clearer sign of weakness - and if there is anything Saddam thinks he is good at, it is smelling weakness - was the US response to Saddam sending his troops into the Kurdish-controlled city of Irbil and evicting a major CIA operation there. The US responded with strikes against radar installations in the south, far away from the center of power or the site of the offense. Even in the US, this response was widely considered weak and ineffective.

Now the choice before the US is clear: Convince its former coalition partners that "all necessary means" must be used to force Iraq to comply with UN resolutions and divulge and destroy its weapons of mass destruction, or take some symbolic response which will fool no one, least of all Saddam Hussein.

In comparison with the craven behavior of France, Russia, and China, the US certainly deserves credit for its leadership role. Leadership, however, does not only mean doing the right thing, but convincing others to follow. The Clinton administration needs to frame the issue in its real proportions for America and its allies: There will be no better opportunity to hold the line against the deadly combination of rogue regimes with doomsday weapons.



The bomb on our doorstep

Israel's negotiators at Oslo intended that the agreements would lead to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. No amount of denials by Labor Party leaders can change this fact. Virtually all the makings of sovereignty and independence are embedded in the language of those agreements. The Palestinian members of the negotiating team have confirmed that this was the common understanding of both sides, even though statehood was not explicitly mentioned in the final document.

Today, long before the final status negotiations have begun, the territory controlled by the Palestinian Authority is out of bounds to Israelis. Any Israeli who happens to stray into areas A or B risks his life.

In drastic contrast, Palestinians by the droves visit Israeli towns and villages, sit in restaurants and cafes, are treated in Israeli hospitals and not a hair on their head is harmed, even on a day when Israelis are murdered by Palestinian suicide bombers.

The interim agreement with the PA signed in Washington in September, 1995, stipulates that "Israel shall continue to carry the responsibility for external security" (Art. X4). This clause enables Israel to control entry and exit from and into the PA-controlled territory. Once Israel loses this critical element of

YOSSI BEN-AHARON

external security, there is nothing to prevent the Palestinian Authority from importing advanced and heavy weaponry, thereby creating a foreign military base positioned next to Israel's heartland.

There is therefore a dangerous contradiction between article X4 mentioned above, and article XI and XII in annex I of the Gaza-Jericho Agreement of May 4,

Arafat is just one step away from declaring the independence of his state

1994. The latter articles refer to the establishment of an airfield in Dahaniya and a maritime port in Gaza, both under the control of the PA. Negotiations on the two outlets have been going on sporadically for some time. Israeli representatives have intimated that the obstacle to reaching an agreement pertains to the security arrangements which Israel insists on setting up in or around the ports. On their part, the Palestinians are adamantly opposed to the emplacement of Israeli controllers and monitoring

equipment on the spot. Even without having an airfield and a port at their disposal, Palestinian VIP's, right up to Yasser Arafat himself, have been caught smuggling weapons into the PA territory. There can be no doubt that no matter how intensive and elaborate Israeli security arrangements may be, PA officials will find the ways and means of increasing the smuggling into their territory of people and weapons that represent a real threat to Israel.

The issue is not just a problem of security. Arafat is just one step away from declaring the independence of his state. He controls territory (albeit limited and fragmented), a functioning government service, a large bureaucracy and several police and security forces. He has some 40,000 to 50,000 men under arms - a veritable army - in flagrant violation of the agreements. He only lacks control over the entry and exit to his state-in-the-making. Without this, he cannot really claim to rule a sovereign entity.

Israel will be committing a tragic blunder if it grants him this request. It might just as well place a bomb at its doorstep, a bomb that cannot be diffused except by war.

The writer is a former director-general of the Prime Minister's Office.

Italy, for example

PINCHAS LANDAU

Over the last decade, the most dynamic economy in Europe. First, in the late 1980s, whilst continental Europe was bogged down in structural problems so deep-seated they became known as "Euro-sclerosis," Britain enjoyed a boom based on the "Thatcher revolution." Then, in the 1990s, Britain was the first to recover from the recession that engulfed the West, and its perfor-

"Tough decisions by the Italian government," as a book, would run to about as many pages as the legendary "Great victories of the Swiss navy." That is, it would have done until just a few years ago.

But the new reality, reflecting the dynamics of economic and political developments even in seemingly stuck-in-the-mud Europe, is quite different. The collapse of Cold War politics in Italy has triggered a fundamental redrawing of the political map, as hitherto unsuspected forces of public opinion have come to the fore. The Italian people are so fed up with the old, corrupt system that ran the country until the 1990s, that they are the most pro-European populace of any of the European Union's 15 member states.

That means meeting European standards - such as cutting inflation from over 10% to below 2% per annum? Never mind, we'll swallow the medicine and get there. What about bloated government budgets and the biggest and phoniest welfare scams in Europe? We'll eliminate them. And those cushy pensions for the huge public sector, early retirement and all the rest? They'll go too, as will indexed wage scales and other impediments to private sector competitiveness on European and global markets.

A whole list of problems that seemed insurmountable, and that therefore seemed to ensure that Italy was doomed to remain the butt of derisive pique on the part of the Germans and other north Europeans, have been systematically addressed and overcome over the last five years. Or, as Italian Prime Minister Prodi said last weekend, after getting parliamentary approval for at least a partial pension reform, "let's see the Germans do that."

In other words, yesterday's heroes can be today's basket cases, and today's schlepners really can turn themselves around to become tomorrow's exemplars. One hundred years after Herzl coined the aphorism, it remains true that "if you really want it, it's no myth." Fity that no one in Israel believes in that anymore.

The writer is a journalist and economic commentator.

The Asian tigers are all dead. Why not seek inspiration closer to home?

Performance in recent years has made it the envy of its European neighbors, especially with regard to unemployment. However much they don't like the idea, the Continental countries are being forced to move in the direction of flexible labor markets and deregulated and/or privatized public sectors. They are also going to have to dump their state-funded pension systems and revamp their social welfare systems, because they simply can't pay for them any more. These issues are widely recognized, but it is equally clear that achieving these goals requires firm government and determined leadership. In this context, one might expect that a country with strong and stable institutions, and especially one boasting the strongest political leadership of any European country - i.e. Germany under Helmut Kohl - would take the lead.

In fact, however, Germany has proven itself incapable of legislating structural reforms in social welfare, taxes and pensions. So has France, which can't even privatize key public sector firms. Incredibly, to anyone living by the accepted stereotypes of national character and capabilities, it is Italy that is now the undisputed leader in the process of structural reform in Europe.

"FIRM government" and Italy are, to most people's minds, the quintessence of incompatibility.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SMALL CHARGES

Sir - About two months ago, I came to live in Safed, and like any upstanding citizen, I opened a bank account. I quickly learned the hard way that there are substantial differences among banks and sometimes even among different branches of the same bank.

Therefore, there are a couple of things I recommend to the new or inexperienced customer in Israel. First, ask the manager to allow you to see a detailed list of fees before opening an account or if you are in doubt about payments you have been charged by your bank. You are entitled to this perusal by law. Secondly, don't sign for all sorts of "small" charges without asking about what exactly you are signing.

DANIEL DOTAN

Safed.

A STRANGER

Sir - I am the son of Jewish parents, and according to the law, I am a Jew. Now, that I am 73 years old and living in Israel since 1948, the prime minister of Israel has declared that because I do not share his political views, I am not a Jew. Also, the heads of the ruling religious parties have declared that I am not a Jew if I do not accept the Orthodox Jewish way of life.

I am a secular and peace-loving Jew. Am I a stranger in my own country? Where shall I go?

ISRAEL WILHEIM

Jerusalem.

DO YOUR HOMEWORK

Sir - In reference to Aryeh Dean Cohen's article "Study: Do your own homework, kids" (October 31), give us a break! The truth of the matter is that it is totally unrealistic to expect parents to tell their children "do your own homework."

As an educator and parent (and former youth division director in Netanya), I can verify the great frustrations the present way of giving homework causes; yet this is not a result of parents spending hours helping their children with their homework, but stems from unfortunate and misguided teachers and supervisors greatly overloading and burdening students with assignments containing material that was not dealt with and taught in the classroom during the day.

As for the many frustrated and helpless parents, one can only say to the Szdol Institute researchers: go back to the blackboard - you need another look at your own homework.

Then again, maybe your parents can help you...

NEIL HASSID

Jerusalem.

GREAT TRADITION

Sir - We have to agree with you that Palestinian Christians are these days facing a lot of difficulties as was reported in "Report: Christians persecuted by PA" (October 24). As an integral part of the Palestinian people, the Palestinian Christians are suffering not by, but rather with, the rest of the Palestinian people. We all, Moslems and Christian, women and men, boys and girls, rich and poor, Palestinians in general, are the victims of brutal and inhuman treatment executed by a fanatic government with little or no respect at all to the national and human needs of our people.

Throughout history, the Palestinian society gave a noble and clear cut example for religious tolerance, brotherly coexistence,

mutual respect and understanding. Jews also, long before the policies of depriving the Palestinian Moslems and Christians of their land and their God given national and human rights, also enjoyed the benefits of sharing our hopes and dreams in one healthy society that lasted for many generations.

President Yasser Arafat, in an honest continuation of such great tradition, has chosen to appoint many Palestinian Christians to top government positions, including the cabinet. I wonder how many non-Jews are members of the Israeli cabinet?

MARWAN KANAFANI

Member of the PNC
 Advisor and Spokesperson for the President

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

60 years ago: On November 5, 1937, The Palestine Post reported that the driver and two passengers of an Egged bus were wounded when they were fired on Jerusalem-Jaffa road. The IPC pipeline was punctured and set on fire and a bomb was thrown at the Beisan (Beit She'an) police station. A firm reaffirmation of the statement that the figure of 8,000 certificates for Jewish immigration was fixed as a purely temporary measure for eight months was announced in London. Resentment against these new immigration restrictions was expressed by the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem.

50 years ago: On November 5, 1947, The Palestine Post reported from Lake Success that the US and Russia had agreed to try to compromise their proposals for the early partition of Palestine. Moshe Shertok, representative of the Jewish Agency, accepted the idea of a single currency system for the two states with a common exchange rate. David Horowitz suggested that both states should enjoy American subsidies and that all international conventions and treaties affecting customs, tariffs, communications and commercial matters generally, should be entered jointly by both states. Three armed Arabs ambushed the Alumim settlement lorry wounding one person. There was a spate of shootings and ambushes throughout the country.

Palestinian travelers would soon be able to go to Britain by rail, via Central Europe, Palestine Railways announced.

25 years ago: On November 5, 1972, The Jerusalem Post announced that the Arab-owned electric company in East Jerusalem and the Israel Electric Corporation agreed on an emergency link of their lines, to meet the severe electricity crisis that had plagued East Jerusalem and most of the West Bank with periodic blackouts. Permanent linking was agreed upon to start the following year. Jews who fled Syria described inhuman life there. They were denied basic human rights and some were beaten and imprisoned on various pretexts.

Alexander Zvielli

HEB...
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 Making out of...

مكتبة القدس

97 The Jerusalem Post
Divisive factor
DAVID KIMCHE

HEBREW TUTOR

Your Personal Hebrew Teacher

- Over 1,000 Key Words
- Develops Hebrew Vocabulary
- Teaches Correct Pronunciation
- Increases your Hebrew Comprehension

See it, hear it, speak it like a Sabra

Making a game out of Hebrew

Hebrew Tutor, a CD-ROM in English and French, created by



By Judy Siegel

Rabbi Chaim Tscholkovsky of the Diaspora Yeshiva, distributed by Torah Educational Software (TES), [Internet address: <http://www.torahscholar.com>] for ages seven to adult, NIS 159 through The Jerusalem Post's book department, at a higher price elsewhere.

Rating: four-and-a-half stars out of five

Massing a large vocabulary is a necessity for speaking a language adequately, but this process is difficult, especially if it means memorizing word lists from a book. But when the chore is made into a game, as in this disk, there's a much greater chance that the words will stick in your mind.

Users must rank themselves in the beginner, intermediate or advanced levels of Hebrew vocabulary. They may play alone or against a ticking clock or a partner. Within a single level, the user must denote a low, medium or high rating of skills and is presented with words that suit him. The highest level quizzes users on an impressive collection of 1,000 words.

The simple, user-friendly disk consists entirely of multiple choice questions: vowelized Hebrew words (in printed letters; it might have also been advisable to display cursive Hebrew as well) are presented, and the user must click on one of the multiple-choice English or French translations for it. Sometimes it's tricky for a novice: for example, *harbeh* (many, much) is given with an option of "rabbi," which has a similar sound.

Incorrect answers produce red frowning circles ("a strike"), each of which disappears only when you receive a minimum number of correct responses. If you've accumulated five strikes, the game is over.

Once you do well at your level, you're automatically bumped upstairs into the next level. If you're tired, or want to snack, there's a pause button - but it'll work only if you've already answered the question at hand. You can't pause to look up the word in a dictionary - no cheating!

The user can stop playing altogether, but that completely aborts the game played and the score is not registered. When you finish, you'll get a Hebrew-knowledge rating between that of a low-level Hebrew speaking "US ambassador" to that of a high-level "Speaker of the Knesset" (although I know of some US ambassadors who speak better Hebrew than the Knesset speaker).

The program, which has a detailed help menu, also automatically reviews all erroneous answers.

If you play against an opponent, either choosing answers with the mouse or by pressing the 1 through 4 or 7 through 0 keys on the keyboard, you can play "ping pong," in which each player has a turn, or "lighting," in

which the first to answer correctly scores.

Wondering why the program doesn't offer a full word list with definitions, I called TES president Emanuel Fishman. He said that within six months, a special diskette will be prepared to upgrade the program of all disk purchasers with exactly that feature. They will then be able to print out word lists and study them as a supplementary source and then be tested by the disk. Since the upgrade will be free, one needn't postpone purchase until the diskette is available.

Hoshvim Begadol (*Thinking Big*), an original CD-ROM in Hebrew, produced and distributed by Compedia, for age eight and above, NIS 149.

Rating: five stars out of five

Half the secret of doing well in psychometric tests - those exams that are increasingly required for getting into university, certain jobs, high school and junior high - is getting the hang of this form of testing.

This well-done piece of software does an excellent job teaching the basics of logic-based psychometric tests, particularly those using series of numbers, shapes and other graphic images, though not the verbal gymnastics one must be skilled at for university-entrance tests.

The subject matter, presented with calming classical music in the background, is divided into study, games, exercises and tests. The study section explains the logic - and the pitfalls - of commonly used psychometric techniques. These include counting how many cubes exist in a three-dimensional structure, when some of them are not visible; selecting the exceptional in a series of images; understanding sequences of shapes or numbers; and deciding what domino tile should follow others in logical sequence.

With domino tiles, for example, one may either have to add or subtract the dots on each side to figure out what comes next. There are seven different types of problems involving number sequences - all well explained by the narrator. Geometrical shapes can differ in color, size, location, number, circumference or direction.

The games, presented in imaginative animated form, are challenging and a lot of fun. Presented with rods of different colors, one is asked to place them in another tray in a way that "the greens don't touch the purples and blues and don't stand in a corner."

A more difficult game with a Western cowboy theme offers spaces for a four-digit number; one must choose the numbers and place them in the proper sequence guided by trial and error and a bulls-eye shot into a target when a digit is correct.

Another game uses seven cannons and two colors of cannonballs and requires you to jump one over the other so the colors switch sides, while yet another requires choosing the correct number in a sequence, each of which brings a cowboy closer to lassoing a steer.

After you've mastered the lessons and exercises, there is a 25-question test that includes all the various disciplines. You'll be graded and shown your errors.

Even if you're not facing a psychometric test in the near future, stick this in your disk drive for some excellent brain exercises that will keep your gray matter in the pink.

In search of Mary Poppins

The Louise Woodward case has conjured up fears for many working parents. Allison Kaplan Sommer looks at how to avoid a nanny nightmare

It's Monday morning, and the indoor playground in Tel Aviv's Gan Ha'ir mall sounds like the United Nations. As toddlers climb on the slides and peek in and out of the miniature plastic houses, their nannies chat with one another in Hebrew, English, French, and Tagalog, the native language of the Philippines.

Linda, a 22-year-old Filipina, chases Ziv, her year-old charge, chattering with him in a mixture of Hebrew and English.

"I've been taking care of him since he was six months old," she says.

Hiring foreigners to watch children is a fact of life in most of greater Tel Aviv and much of the rest of the country as well. Many families turn to foreign nannies or au pairs following problems with Israeli caregivers - usually over differences regarding salary and working hours.

Even the prime minister has done this. Following the Netanyahu family's fiasco last year with an Israeli nanny, the family recently obtained a permit for a Filipino one - a feat which is impossible for all but those with the best connections. Most people who want a foreign nanny must hire one illegally.

The controversial trial and conviction of 19-year-old Louise Woodward, the British au pair found guilty last week of murder in Massachusetts, has been followed closely by Israeli agencies that supply nannies and au pairs.

HILMA SHMOSHKOVITZ, a well-known Tel Aviv agent for nannies and au pairs, says that Woodward fell into the most misunderstood category of workers - the au pair.

"There is a difference between a nanny and an au pair," she explains. "A nanny is a girl who only takes care of the child, feeds the child, cleans up after the child, does its laundry. But when a family takes an au pair, they expect her to keep the house clean, do the laundry, cook, and take care of the children."

"It's funny; the press called Tanya [Shaw] - the girl the Netanyahu family fired - a nanny, but she was cooking for the whole family; she was doing more than being a nanny."

She says she often gets irritated with families that want au pairs. "They want this girl to keep the house cleaner than they would themselves."

For the past year, she has been placing Israeli girls who, like Woodward, are willing to accept a low wage in order to work legally in the US.

"Officially, they can go from the age of 18, but I won't accept them that young. We say they must be after the army, usually aged 20-21, preferably with a driver's license, recommendations from people whose children they have cared for and a certain number of hours of child-care experience."

"The program I represent is called Au Pair USA. The girls make only about \$140 a week, they commit to stay for the year, they undergo a week of orientation and training in New York before they go to the homes. But the employers have to know this is cultural exchange. They are supposed to have time to take a course if they wish."

And what of Louise Woodward? Like many, Shmoshkovitz doesn't believe that the baby was murdered intentionally or necessarily abused. "She could have been so tired she dropped the baby."

TO ISRAELI parents frightened by the Woodward story, she advises that such situations can best be avoided by keeping a close eye on one's nanny and making sure she is not overburdened.

"I had a young girl from South Africa available and a family that demanded some help immediately because the mother was about to give birth," she recalls. "I wasn't sure they fit one another but I said that they could try out this girl and see how things work out."



Can you trust the person caring for your child? It's often a matter of instinct. (Nissan Shorer)

"Well, it turns out that they expected her to take care of the newborn, watch their two-year-old

Even when an au pair's duties are clearly spelled out, problems can arise.

demand of themselves if they were not working." Veronica Grossbard, who has

Most working parents end up having to trust a stranger with what is most precious to them

Einat Weil, 22, from Kfar Maimon, spent time working as an au pair for a British family in London.

"I thought we had spelled out my duties clearly in writing. But the problem is, once you are living in someone else's house, in a foreign country, you are totally dependent on them and it is fairly impossible to say no when they ask you to do a million and one things beyond what you agreed upon. And then there is the difficulty of understanding the mentality of a foreign family. It wasn't easy."

Shmoshkovitz says that in Israel, "families often put too much emphasis on the housework, keeping the house spic-and-span. The baby should come first."

"If they want everything to work out, they should understand the girls, and not expect from the girls much more than they would

'Families often put too much emphasis on keeping the house spic-and-span. The baby should come first.'

been an agent for nearly 20 years, says she has never had an Israeli family complain of any of her nannies abusing a child.

She says for families to feel comfortable with their nanny they should "work with a reputable

agency - and there are some agencies out there that are not professional - and always, always check references."

She concurs with Shmoshkovitz that families "must decide what's more important, the children or the housework. Many Israeli families feel if they have someone live in, they are on duty 24 hours a day."

SHIRA HOFFBERG (not her real name), a Tel Aviv businesswoman who is pregnant with her third child, has gone through a series of nannies from Ireland, Holland and South Africa. She says that references are not always enough to set a mother's mind at rest.

"I'm always worried - it doesn't take a horror story like Louise Woodward's to set it off. Personally, in Woodward's case, I believe that she dropped the baby and didn't beat him, but that's not much better, is it? I've had many nannies and I've called references all over the world."

"But how do you know you are talking to? You never know. In the end you have to go with your gut feeling. I know I'm not the best nanny interviewer in the world, I'm not good at first impressions."

"When I have a new nanny, I try to keep in touch with home all day, and work shorter hours. I ask neighbors or my mother-in-law to drop in unannounced and see what's going on. You try, but it's hard and it's scary."

Meirav Bar-On, a Rehovot attorney - who would not let her real name be used either - has been through a series of illegal nannies from various backgrounds. She has decided that hiring a foreign nanny is too much of a risk. Her last foreign nanny simply disappeared.

"She may have been deported - she was African - or she may just have decided to quit and didn't want to tell us," she says.

Bar-On now employs a Russian immigrant, whom she found without the help of an agent.

"I wouldn't hire a foreign nanny without an agency, but here, unlike the US, if you are hiring someone local, you usually go through word of mouth, not through an agency."

"I usually go with my instincts about someone and cross my fingers. What I try to do is really interrogate their references, ask the reference a million questions, keep them on the phone for an hour. It's the only way you can try to figure out whom you are bringing into your house."

Mor Shamgar, a Ramat Hasharon businesswoman with a five-year-old and a newborn says she would "never" hire a foreign nanny.

"First of all, I'm afraid of the law; I don't want to do something illegal. Secondly I want someone to speak Hebrew with my kids. And if, God forbid, if something happens, I certainly don't want my nanny afraid to go to the hospital or the authorities because she is afraid she will be caught and deported."

Her final reason is an issue much whispered about in the hallways of nursery schools and pediatric offices, but rarely discussed openly. "Illegals can sometimes disappear with half of your household goods," says Shamgar.

Rumors circulate throughout Tel Aviv, Herzliya and Ra'anana of trusted domestic workers taking thousands of dollars worth of goods. But police complaints are rare, because the families were breaking the law by employing someone illegally.

Despite the worry and the stories, most families with full-time working parents ultimately end up having to trust a stranger in their home caring for what is most precious to them. Few are as lucky as Shamgar.

"When I was a child and my mother was studying for a doctorate, she hired an Israeli nanny, who stayed with us as we grew up," she said. "Now that I have children, she is working for me. So it is really like having someone who is part of the family."

Should toddlers watch television?



By Ruth Mason

IT'S 8 a.m. in the Levi household. Adina has prepared 14-month-old Ariel's breakfast and puts it on his high-chair tray. She pulls the high chair around so it's facing the television and turns to her son. "Time for Sesame Street," she announces brightly. Ariel smiles and puts up his arms for his mother to lift him into the chair. He eats while watching the by-now familiar characters on TV while Adina goes into the kitchen to do the dishes.

Three p.m. at the Cohens.

Sasha, 18 months old, brings the 101 Dalmatians videotape to her mother. Irit hesitates. She knows Sasha will sit through the entire movie as she has dozens of times before. She feels she shouldn't let her baby watch quite so much TV, but she also needs a break. She slips the video into the VCR while Sasha settles on the couch. After watching with her daughter for a few minutes, Irit goes into the kitchen to make herself a cup of coffee and phone a friend.

Both Adina and Irit relish the breaks television provides from life with an active and demanding baby or toddler. But both also wonder whether they are doing the right thing by letting their little ones watch TV.

Most of the classic books on child-rearing say that babies and toddlers don't really watch television. "No one thought that kids under two-and-a-half paid any attention to TV until we bothered to look and see," said John Wright, professor of human development and psychology at the University

of Kansas and co-director of the Center for Research on the Influence of Television on Children. Studies show that babies as young as six months respond to the sights and sounds on a television screen and that children between one and two react to TV characters by imitating them, pointing, and naming them.

Experts say one-year-olds pay "selective attention" to TV (i.e. they notice intensity, contrast, change, movement, novelty and surprise). But as Adina, Irit and other parents know, many one-year-olds are capable of watching an entire video movie.

Indeed, older children watch an average of 20 to 30 hours of television a week, which is more time than they spend on any other single waking activity. Does this habit begin in babyhood?

According to Wright, it does. Even though a one-year-old may not be processing most of the content of what she or he watches (children this age recognize favorite characters, but won't pay

attention to the whole show), Wright says that the "TV habit" can begin early.

Like many experts on the subject, Wright sounds ambivalent about whether or not TV-watching is harmful to young children. "Beware of using electronic baby-sitting," he tells parents. Yet when asked how harmful it is, he replies, "Not very, unless you do it all the time." In Wright's opinion, which he stresses is not data-based, one-half hour of TV daily is plenty for a pre-school aged child.

Says Wright: "Children today are going to get most of their information and spend more time interacting with electronic screens than they are with print on paper. Some of the best, most intellectually stimulating, culturally elevating, humanistically powerful things are going to come that way." Still, he says, it's important to limit the time children watch and more important to limit what they see.

"It's important to limit the

time," he maintains, "because it's important to do all kinds of different things with one- and two-year-olds and no one thing should dominate." Wright believes educational TV can be a "positive component of a child's education when combined with a healthy dose of other activities such as exercise, good nutrition and nurturing care."

Other child-development experts warn that the short segments on most children's TV shows teach young children to want constant change, stimulation and excitement. They point out that one- and two-year-olds need to be moving, exploring, using their bodies and interacting with others rather than sitting passively in front of a screen.

If we look to the experts for answers about whether or not to let our babies and toddlers watch TV, we'll get conflicting advice. The best we can do, as with most child-rearing dilemmas, is to take it all in, mix it with our intuition and make our own decisions.

GARDENER'S CORNER

The grand garlic

By BATSHEVA MINK & DAVID BRAUNER

A gardener friend of ours recalls a farmer in Sussex, England who once claimed that his father lived to the age of 89 and his mother to a ripe 94, as a result of eating plenty of garlic. And the son's own remarkable health and vigor, he believed, also stemmed from eating garlic.

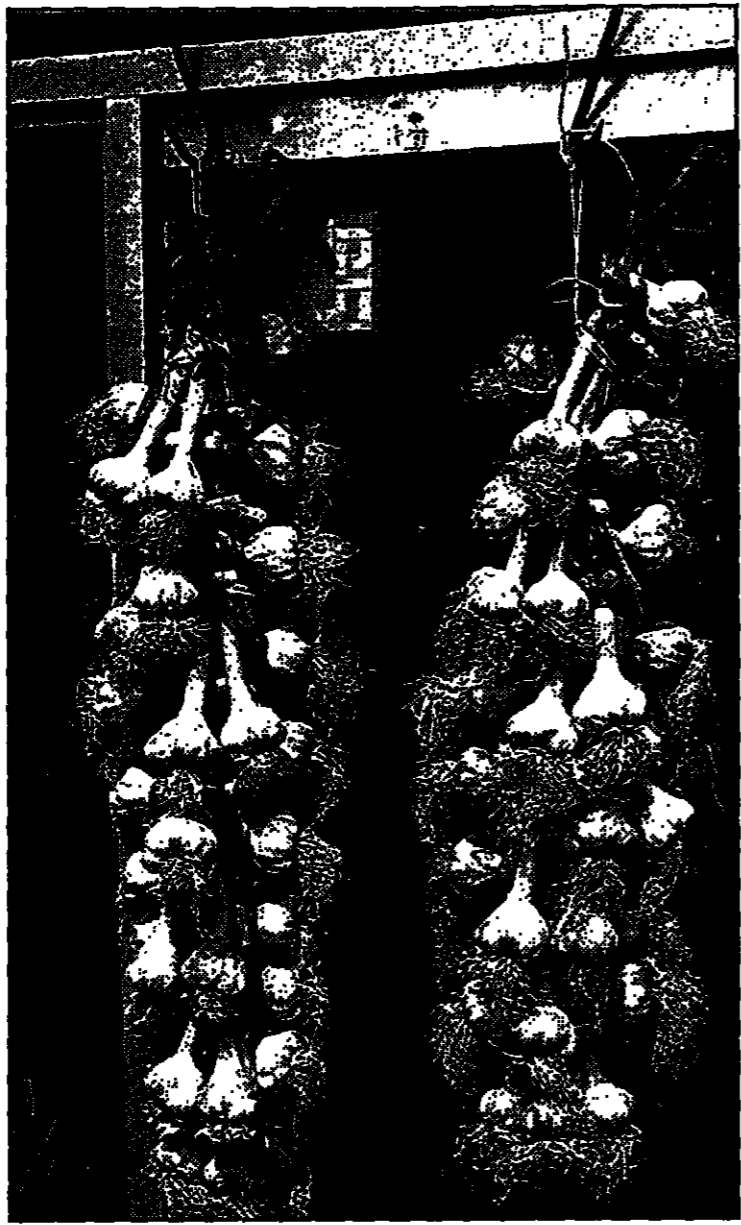
Since time immemorial legends, mostly to do with strength and endurance, have surrounded garlic. Its medicinal values have been recognized since ancient times. The Egyptians raised this medicinal plant to a divine status. They hung necklaces of garlic around children's necks to drive out worms.

The Greek historian Herodotus, quoting an Egyptian tomb inscription, wrote that the Pharaoh Cheops ordered at great expense a large daily ration of garlic for all Israelite workers employed in the construction of the Great Pyramid in order to give them strength and protect them from epidemics. The taskmasters who were not forced to eat the garlic diet were said to have suffered from many infectious diseases.

For the Romans, garlic was the herb of Mars, the god of war. Consequently, Roman soldiers ate garlic to give them strength in battle. European legend holds that if a man chews on a garlic clove during a running race, no one will be able to get ahead of him (or even want to draw close). In Bohemia garlic is fed to dogs to make them fearless and strong.

One Egyptian medical listing from 1550 BCE recommends garlic as a remedy for 22 ailments, including headaches, bites, worms, heart problems and plague. The Roman scholar Pliny claimed garlic cured over 60 ailments. As an effective antiseptic, garlic was much in demand during World War I.

In recent times garlic has been the subject of endless studies. It has been found to have a cholesterol-lowering effect. Garlic products, like oil capsules and tea,



(Andre Bruttman)

have become top-selling health and dietary supplements in the U.S. and Europe.

Recent medical research confirms that this plant contains a powerful ingredient that makes it a genuine asset in modern alternative medicine. This component called allicin is equivalent to a

one-percent solution of penicillin. Its action destroys or inhibits bacteria, fungi and yeast. (Israel's Weizmann Institute is presently also conducting research into these extraordinary properties of garlic, as reported in *The Jerusalem Post*, October 15.)

However, allicin is unstable, and

cooking reduces its effectiveness. And it is also unfortunately the same ingredient that gives garlic its strong "anti-social" odor.

The lore of garlic also extends to the realms of religion and magic. According to Moslem tradition, when Satan stepped out of the Garden of Eden after the fall of man, garlic sprang up from the spot where he placed his left foot and onions where his right foot touched. Egyptian priests placed garlic on the altars of their gods as offerings. Several garlic bulbs were found in the tomb of Tutankhamen dating from c. 1358 BCE. In the Talmud, garlic was reputed to "bring love and remove jealousy" (Bava Kama, 82a).

Additionally, garlic has other practical uses. It is an insecticide. Also it makes a light contact cement, like rubber cement. Simply cut a clove in half, rub both parts to be glued and hold together until the juice is dry. And in the garden, there is a tradition that a clove of garlic planted near a rose bush will enhance the perfume of the rose blossoms, because the plant is provoked by competition into manufacturing more scent.

The garlic plant originated in southwest Siberia. From there it spread to China, where it is highly valued, and to southern Europe, where it became naturalized in the wild, especially in Sicily. Today it is widely cultivated in Mediterranean countries, where the climate is most suitable.

The English name "garlic" is of Anglo-Saxon origin, and derives from "gar," a spear and "leek," a leaf, (related to "leek"), and together the name refers to the spear-shaped leaves. The Hebrew for garlic, *shum* is only mentioned once in the Bible (Num. 11:5), but several times in the Talmud. The botanical name is *Allium sativum*. Garlic belongs to the onion family, *Liliaceae*.

The tuberous root consists of bulblets, known as "cloves" grouped between membranous scales and held together by a whitish skin. The number of cloves in a bulb, usually 15-30 but sometimes more, depends on how



(Brian Handley)

well the garlic is grown.

The other day we bought one bulb in the market for NIS 1.50 (NIS 12 a kilo). At home on splitting it, we found it contained 20 large cloves, each capable of growing into 20 complete bulbs. Not bad value.

In spring and early summer, garlic puts out small white flowers, tinged with red. Freshly harvested garlic has an almost sweet fruitiness which is very difficult to find in dried, faded garlics bought later in the year.

Garlic is one of the easiest herbs to grow. The largest cloves produce the best bulbs. Garlic will sprout in all soils, but prefers a rich, moist, sandy mixture. Before planting dig up the ground to aerate it, and break up the lumps. Add a generous amount of organic matter (compost), then rake the earth level. Garlic may be planted between now and February, but fall is the best time. Grow them in a sunny spot. Push each clove half its length into the soil with the pointed end up. Space cloves 15 cm. apart in rows 30-40 cm. apart. Sometimes they "spring out" after a few days or the birds knock them out. No harm done - just press them back in place again. As soon as their roots take, the cloves will be steadied in place.

Garlic can also be grown in pots and window boxes, provided they

are exposed to full sun. You can also stick a few cloves between other plants if you are short of space. But remember to add a little compost before planting.

Don't let garlic dry out in hot weather. When growing well, nourish the plants with a liquid fertilizer every other week. Pinch off the flower heads early to divert all the growing energy into the

bulbs. When the leaves start to turn yellow, it is time to harvest your garlic, which is usually at the end of April.

Your gardening questions and comments are welcome. Contact Batsheva Mink, P.O.B. 3943, Jerusalem 91039, or David Brauner, e-mail: morri@ashur.cc.hu.ac.il

TIP OF THE WEEK

Anyone who grows garlic in quantity might feel the urge to braid them into ropes. The sight of hanging garlic ropes in your kitchen will give it a homey, rustic look. Here's how to make a garlic rope:

1. After harvesting the bulbs, let the leaves dry out for a week or two. If the tops become brittle, spray them lightly with warm water to make them pliable. Carefully rub off any soil still attached to the bulbs.

2. Cut an 80 cm. length of sturdy natural fiber (cotton or garden twine).

3. To start your rope, gather three bulbs together and knot one end of the twine around their necks. Twist the twine around a few times to secure them further.

4. Add three more bulbs, with their tops flattened together, and join the twine around again.

5. Continue adding garlic in groups of three to build up your rope to around 10 cm. in length, though not over 15 cm. thick. Start the twine with the knot on the occasional knot in the twine to hold it together.

6. When you have finished, trim the top of the rope, and some twine around the necks of the bulbs. The twine should be about 1 cm. thick.

7. To start your rope, gather three bulbs together and knot one end of the twine around their necks. Twist the twine around a few times to secure them further.

HEADS 'N' TAILS

Pet-proofing your home

By D'VORA BEN SHAUL

Most accidents happen in the home, and that's as true for pets as it is for people. Dogs and cats get hit by motor vehicles and are poisoned by pesticides and herbicides, but many more get into trouble without ever leaving their home turf.

According to a pathologist from the Veterinary Institute in Beit Dagan, the most common cause of death in dogs is the consumption of indigestible material (second only to poisoning). One major danger is an intestinal obstruction caused by eating foam rubber or synthetic scouring pads. Never make a puppy a bed from material that it can tear up and swallow. It's best to use an old blanket or a piece of carpet.

But there are other household accidents that kill both dogs and kittens, sometimes even parrots. Gnawing at electric wires (particularly attractive is a dangling extension cord) can prove lethal to pets. It is advisable to keep extension cords and appliance wires out of puppy and kitten reach. If that is not possible, pass them through a length of garden hose, plastic tubing, or such insulated material. (The hose or tubing can be easily cut down its length and taped together once the cord is inside. Or tape the wires firmly to the wall so

they aren't so tempting. If a kitten or puppy is to be left alone, it should be confined to an area of the house that lacks such enticements. Parrots must never be left unattended in a room that has any exposed electrical cords. While a kitten or puppy may ignore such an attraction if it doesn't dangle alluringly, a parrot will find it even if it is taped to the wall.

If you let your parrot or parakeets out of their cage, be sure the curtains are drawn lest the bird fly into the clear glass window. And make sure that all fires are out and that the hot-plate of the stove is cool. A bird can easily land on it while it is too hot. In general, birds should always be closely supervised when let out.

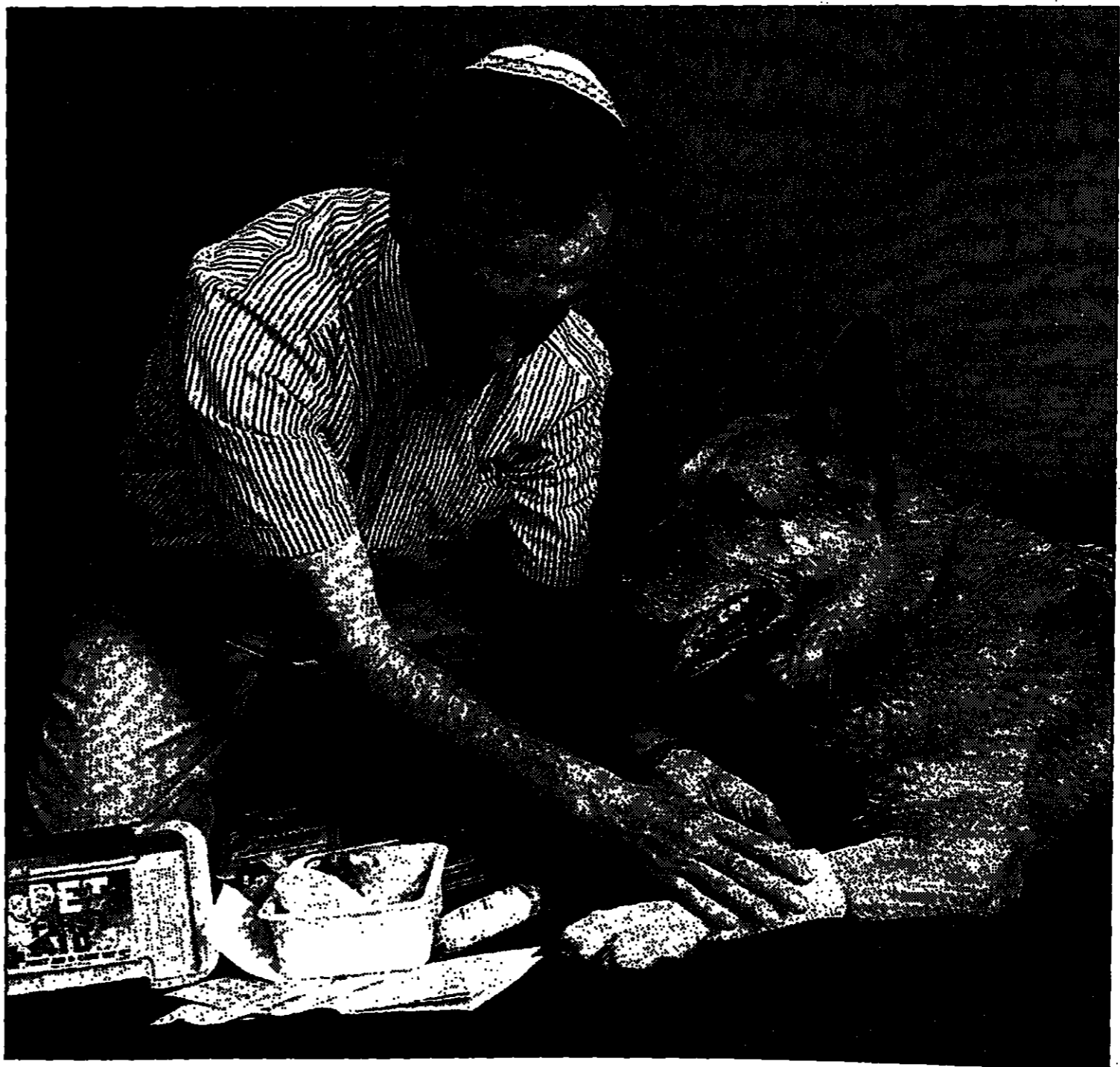
Pets can also get poisoned inadvertently in the home. For example, someone puts rat poison in a storeroom or attic. The rats and mice eat the poison; the cats - and sometimes dogs - eat the mice and die. What's more, many pets have been poisoned by drinking the water from the lavatory where toilet-bowl disinfectant bars or liquids are in use. These chemicals are extremely toxic. And, all too often, pets eat cockroach poison. Many cage birds and aquarium fish die from exposure to aerosol sprays containing insecticides. Therefore, one should never leave cage birds in the room when spraying it with insecticides

or even room fresheners and aerosol-packed carpet and upholstery cleaners. Also, be sure to disconnect the air pump of the aquarium and cover it well with several layers of newspaper before using toxic materials in the room. Remove the covering and reconnect the air pump only when the room has been thoroughly aired.

Just as you would always keep chemicals out of the reach of children, keep them out of the reach of pets. This includes detergents, oven cleaners, and fat-removing compounds. Dogs will often bite right through plastic bottles and get caustic burns to the mouth, paws and muzzle. They have even been known to bite through the thin wall of aerosol cans. Cats, in playing with bottles, sometimes manage to dislodge the cap and let the liquid out, with similar fatal results.

The other important thing to remember is to never leave a dog alone in the car in the summer, not even with the windows partially open, not even in the shade. A great number of dogs get heat stroke from this. And be sure your pets have constant access to clean water.

Most of these rules are essentially a matter of common sense, and observing them can help guarantee the well-being of your animal companions.



A few preventative measures around the house can protect your pet from harm.

(Sarit Uziel)



She's in the new low!
End out...
in tomorrow's

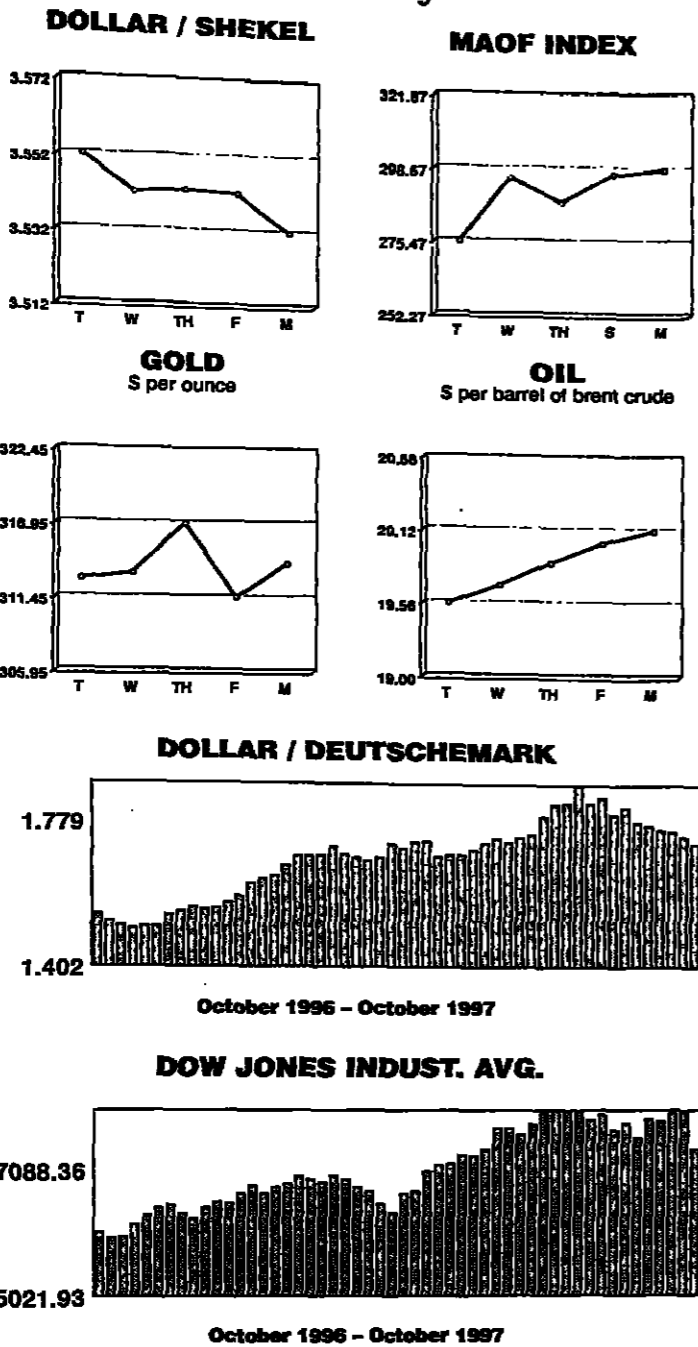
מכרזמן הנצח

Financial and market information sidebar including 'MARI', 'DOLLAR SANKARA', 'GOLD', 'DOLLAR DEUTY', 'State reserves at 2%', 'Market courts down 30%', 'SOME INVESTORS SLEPT PEACEFULLY THROUGH THE MARK CRISIS', and 'Purchase our new Investment Bond and you can remain calm because it's guaranteed performance of market'.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

MARKETS

in brief



Boeing, IAI discuss \$500m. deal

By STEVE RODAN

SEATTLE - The newly merged US aerospace giant Boeing is negotiating with Israel Aircraft Industries in a major project aimed at launching a network of satellites to widen worldwide access to the Internet.

Boeing officials said IAI has responded to a Request for Proposals on the Teledesic program, which envisages sending up at least 288 satellites between 2001 and 2003. The project's estimated worth is \$10 billion.

IAI executives are seeking several contracts concerning the satellites' electronics, satellite stabilization and control systems. The contract could total close to \$500 million. "We haven't decided what to do yet," Boeing Vice President Mike Boyce said. "We're in the middle of a competition."

An IAI executive confirmed his company is negotiating with Boeing, but said the talks are at an early stage.

Boeing executives said that other companies competing for the contracts include the US company Honeywell, the Japanese Mitsubishi, and the German Dasa.

Teledesic was launched by Microsoft founder Bill Gates. It aims to place a network of satellites in the sky to provide such services as Internet access, video conferencing, and other digital data services. The project is privately funded by Gates, Boeing and telecommunications pioneer Craig McCaw.

Teledesic is one of several projects which Boeing is discussing with Israeli contractors, following a strategic decision made recently to tap into Israeli high-tech expertise, company executives say.

The Seattle-based company which merged this year with McDonnell Douglas is competing for a \$2.5 billion dollar contract to provide Israel with its next squadron of fighter planes.

Boeing won the contract in the

1994 competition and the first F-15I will be rolled out in a ceremony in St. Louis tomorrow.

Meanwhile, Israel is expected to issue a request for information within days to both Boeing and Lockheed for pricing and availability of F-15 and F-16 fighter aircraft, according to the London-based *Jane's Defense Weekly*, to be published today.

The request is expected to be for between 40 and 60 aircraft, which will replace Israel's A-4 Skyhawk fleet, and a decision is expected next year, with "offsets" playing a significant role in the decision.

Douglas Davis contributed to this report

Bezeq considers suing Telrad, Tadiran

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN and Globes news service

The Bezeq board of directors was scheduled to meet last night to discuss cartel practices allegedly committed by both Tadiran Communications and Telrad Industries, company director Ezziel Nevo, who represents British communications company Cable & Wireless, said yesterday.

Some directors said Bezeq should initiate a civil suit for significant damages against its switching suppliers.

Earlier in the week, published reports said the two companies drafted a document in 1987 outlining a price-fixing scheme for switchboards, as well as plans to coordinate bids for Bezeq tenders. Such practices are in violation of the Restraint of Trade Law.

Executives from both companies allegedly approved the agreement and have been following it since.

"The subject cannot be passed over. It seems that in the distant past people were involved in the matter," Nevo said.

Operating a cartel is punishable by two years' imprisonment or a non-specified fine. If found guilty, the company directors would be subject to a more severe punishment, since it would mean that they lied to government officials.

Earlier in the year, Koor, the parent company of both Tadiran and Telrad, submitted documents saying the two firms compete fiercely in the area of private switchboards.

There was also talk of registering a complaint with the police against Tadiran Communications and Telrad, so that the police would investigate whether the two companies had committed deception against Bezeq and other companies.

The Antitrust Authority has begun inspecting many documents seized earlier in the week from the offices of Koor, Telrad, Tadiran Communications and Tadiran.

No one has been summoned for questioning. A senior government official involved in the investigation said he believes a document outlining cartel practices does exist.

Executives at Tadiran, Telrad, and Koor denied the allegations.



Thai economic woes

A Thai stock investor checks a local newspaper yesterday which headlined the planned resignation of Thai Prime Minister Chavalit Yongchaiyudh over the nation's economic troubles. After the prime minister's announcement, Thai stock prices staged an energetic rally with the benchmark index climbing 6.9% yesterday. (AP)

Study: Firms to show better 3rd quarter results

By DAN GERSTENFELD

A study published yesterday by the equities research and consulting department of Bank Hapoalim projected that the third quarter earnings reports of Israeli companies will show moderate income growth.

The first earnings reports will be published in the next few weeks. Hapoalim economists predict that a relatively high number of holding companies will report gains as a result of improved sales and public offerings by their subsidiaries.

The companies listed include Discount Investments, which sold its holdings in Iscar to the

Wertheimer family in August, for \$130 million; Koor Industries, which is expected to post a capital gain of NIS 27m. from the sale of Algorithmic Research to Cylink Corp; Macpell Industries, which is expected to report a capital gain of NIS 125m. from the initial public offering of Tefron Ltd. in New York; and Formula Systems which is expected to post profits of about \$18m. from a secondary offering of its subsidiary Crystal Systems Solutions in New York.

An economic slowdown which has been blamed for a decline in private spending and for hindering growth rates, is expected to have a negative impact on the third quarter reports.

On the other hand, increasing competition and strict monetary policy are said to have forced local companies to become more efficient, and could lead to a slight improvement in gross and operating profits margins in comparison to the third quarter of 1996.

Moreover, rising unemployment, which has led to lower demands for wage increases, is expected to have a positive impact on corporate expenses.

Export oriented companies, especially those who report in US dollars, are expected to show improved results compared to the same period last year, based on the depreciation of the shekel against the US currency.

Despite this, these companies are expected to show declining profitability against the second quarter because of the shekel's appreciated 3.79% against the dollar during the last three months, after a sharp depreciation in the second quarter.

Real estate companies are likely to show declining profits due to a slowdown in the housing market.

The tourism industry is expected to be affected by the deadlock in the peace process, while banking and brokerage firms are expected to present improved results because of a sharp rise in trading volume on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

State revenues up 2%

State revenues from taxes and other fees totaled NIS 89.9 billion during the first 10 months of the year, a two percent increase in real terms from the same period last year, the Treasury reported yesterday. The Income Tax and Purchase Tax Department collected NIS 49.7b., a 4.7% real-term increase over last year. Income tax receipts were up 10%, mainly because of a 23% decline in income tax refunds. However, revenue from purchase tax was down 22%, which the Treasury attributed to a dwindling real estate market. There was a 1% real-term decline in Customs and VAT Department income, with officers collecting some NIS 38b. An 8% fall in customs duty receipts was because of declining imports of durable goods, said the Treasury. Domestic non-VAT taxes collected by the department increased 9%, principally because of increased taxation on fuel and tobacco. David Harris

Diamond exports down 39%

Polished diamond exports fell 39 percent in October to \$258 million from \$421m. in the same period one year ago, the Ministry of Industry and Trade said. The ministry attributed the drop to the holiday season, when business is usually slower and which last year fell in September. Jennifer Friedlin

Royal Jordanian protests Israel's limit on customers

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Royal Jordanian Airlines issued a complaint to the Civil Aviation Administration over the fact that the government has limited the airline to serving 450 passengers to and from Israel a week.

Shaweki Abu-Ghazaleh, the area manager for Royal Jordanian, pointed out that when the agreement between Israel and Jordan was signed, it was decided to impose the limitation for six months and then reexamine the deal.

Meanwhile, he said, a year and a half have passed and the limitation is still in force. He said the Tel Aviv-Amman route has a 70 percent occupancy rate, meaning the airline occasionally has had to turn away large groups that wanted to visit Jordan. What this meant, he said, was that the tourism ministers of the two countries tried to encourage joint tourism, while the Transport Ministry discouraged it.

He added that while Jordanians who wanted to take advantage of El Al's low fares to New York faced no barriers, Israelis who wanted to enjoy Royal Jordanian's cheap fares to the Far East, were sometimes deterred by the limit.

Moshe Hananel, director of Galilee Tours, Royal Jordanian's representative in Israel, said the airline had appealed several times to the CAA to no avail.

In response, Transport Ministry spokesman Avner On said Israel is examining the Jordanian request. However, he added, since the Royal Jordanian flights are not filled to capacity, the situation would not appear to warrant a change.

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THE BUSINESS SCENE

By GREER JAY CASIMAN



In a meeting with Transportation Minister Yitzhak Levy in Jerusalem, Nigerian Aviation Minister Udu-Ioma (right) brought up the aviation agreement that was signed between Israel and Nigeria in the early 1960s, but never implemented. The aviation minister, who believes the agreement has been frozen for far too long, wants to establish a new Nigeria-Egypt-Israel air route which will involve flying over the skies of several Arab states. He pointed out that many Nigerian pilgrims will be interested in coming to Israel in the year 2000, and that it was up to Israel to make it easier for them to travel here by cutting red tape and introducing more convenient and less expensive air routes between the two countries.

and Associates. A graduate of Ben-Gurion University, he majored in economics and accounting and has lectured on accountancy at Holon College. Denstar has announced the appointment of Joel Adler as its general manager. Prior to his promotion, Adler, 39, served as the company's deputy director of marketing. Nachit Laor, founder of the Apropro restaurant chain, which now has 36 branches throughout the country, has signed a \$450,000 contract for 215 television commercials, the first of which aired last month.

Prof. Aliza Shehbar, who has just completed her term as Israel's ambassador to Russia, has been elected president of the Academic College of the Jezreel Valley. Offered several options in academia, politics, education, public institutions and organizations, Shehbar accepted the presidency of the college because it presented not only a challenge but new, creative opportunities for academic development. Prof. Shehbar, who prior to embarking on a diplomatic career was rector of Haifa University, also filled several executive positions in various organizations.

Shenkar College graduate Talia Berk has been appointed to manage the Ralph Lauren store in Israel. A long-time Poligat employee, she has worked as commercial manager, designer and fashion coordinator in the company's menswear division. In addition to her Shenkar diploma, she has a BA in Drama from Tel Aviv University. Other than her work at Poligat, she has served as a fashion lecturer at Shenkar and Hadassah-WIZO College in Haifa.

Haya Engar has been appointed manager of the Eilat branch of the Greenberg chain of supermarkets. She was previously the manager of the Jaffa branch of the chain's Jerusalem outlet. Avi Bann has been appointed deputy director of finances at Rickmor, the Israel franchisee for Burger King and Planet Hollywood. Bann, 31, was previously the company's controller and before that worked in the accounting firm of Eliezer Oren

Business management and labor relations expert Prof. Amir Galin has been appointed head of the Lahav Center for Management Negotiations at Tel Aviv University's Management Faculty. Galin, who earned her doctorate in management sciences at the Haifa Technion, acts as a consultant in various spheres of management and labor relations and frequently appears as the public representative in the National Labor Court.

Dominio's Pizza has announced the appointment of Eldar Mandil as the company's training manager. Mandil, who joined Dominio's Pizza five years ago, has managed branches in Ben-Gurion Airport, Ramat Aviv and Rehovot.

Picking up the pieces

Following last week's shakeup, there's more reason than ever to exercise caution

By NEIL COHEN

Given the rapidly changing and significant moves in world equity markets right now - including our own - I'm breaking from the routine to write another portfolio piece this week. Although a great deal may have changed by the time you read this piece, we now have some kind of clue as to what's been going on.

Just to recap, the Dow crashed, then recovered a good chunk of its losses, continued to rise, fell back to end Wednesday with small gains and then started diving again on Thursday, only to regain some composure on Friday.

The TASE behaved almost comically because of the various weird and wonderful rules under which it operates. The big stocks crashed while the Exchange authorities halted trade in the Karam stocks. Then the Karam stocks plunged as the big stocks recovered sharply, following the bounce on Wall Street. They ended the week falling sharply following New York's Wednesday fall.

Europe and the Far East

bounced around all over the place, usually following New York. The two markets that everyone was watching most closely were New York and Hong Kong.

In a week in which the general share index fell by 9.92 percent, our conservative portfolio mirrored the index, falling by an identical 9.92%, while the aggressive portfolio fell 11.4%. The new defensive portfolio barely budged since it is almost entirely in cash. In the conservative portfolio, almost everything took a hit, but exposure to New York and the Far East was particularly painful. Twenty-seven percent was wiped off the value of our largest holding and star performer, Orbotech. As I predicted last week, anything associated with industries in which the Far East plays a big part, like semiconductors, took a heavy beating.

Indeed, in the aggressive portfolio much of the damage was due to Tower Semiconductor being hit hard. Despite reporting better than expected earnings during the week, the company hinted that business since the

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quarter-end was slowing down, and at least one analyst cut his earnings forecast. The stock was sliced from \$21 to \$12 almost overnight. The semicon connection did not help. Taking some profit out of Tower and Orbotech holdings proved not to have been such a bad move after all.

In general, everything got hurt. Some things took a real pounding. Others less, including liquid stocks, which is the opposite of what one would expect in more developed markets. My explanation, for what it's worth, is as follows: In normal markets, investors prune their marginal holdings first, and there is often enough liquidity to allow them to do so. They sometimes dump smaller stocks indiscriminately. In either case small stocks take a beating. The bargain hunters in these situa-

tions, the bolder institutions and the share buyers-back (IBM announced a \$3.5 billion share buyback as the market was crashing - good for the market, good for IBM shareholders) wade in to buy quality, liquid and therefore bigger stocks.

In the TASE, by contrast, the only things you could sell in the effective buyers strike of last week were the bigger stocks. Hence the pounding they took. In some cases nobody bothered trying to sell smaller stocks. In others, I suspect, there were insiders mopping up loose stock. When insiders own 90% of a company's stock, there are not that many people to sell, and if the insiders decide to pick up the stock, it provides very good support for the price.

My personal sense is that short term the markets are headed south. World markets, New York in particular, are still somewhat overvalued, and by this time the focus has shifted from Hong Kong to Wall Street.

Mr. Greenspan's reassuring words notwithstanding, last week's shakeup is probably the first step on the way back to fair value, which some analysts put at between 6,000 and 6,500 on the Dow. In one scenario, there would be a further correction now, preparing the ground for another upward march. Alternatively, we could see a long period of sideways movement which would gnaw away at investor confidence and probably result in an overshoot on the downside. This could potentially damage economic optimism and confidence and thereby become a self-fulfilling prophecy - weaker

markets, slower growth. There's no way of knowing where the markets are headed and how they are going to get there. In any event, the risks are clearly far greater on the downside, and if at any time caution is called for, now is that time.

The TASE is probably quite fairly valued right now, but like it or not, we are going to move in tandem with Wall Street. Too many of the bigger TASE companies have dual listings or NASDAQ holdings, and US investor confidence or lack of it is felt the world over. Juts look at last week's market performance for proof.

This said, a sustained period of uncertainty will likely create many attractive buying opportunities as we tend to swing from one extreme of valuation to the other. There are already some convertibles I'm eyeing. So I think the coming weeks, and possibly months, will see us doing a lot of sitting on our hands, perhaps picking up bargains here and there.

I'm comfortable with our portfolios. There's very little, if anything, in the way of the speculative junk that gets wiped out when the markets turn down. So, even though I'm rather pessimistic on a global level, I'm not going to try too hard to time the markets and jump out now.

The writer works in the investment industry and may hold positions in securities mentioned in the column. This column should not be taken as advice to buy, sell or continue to hold any securities and anyone acting on the advice of this column does so at his or her own risk.

NEIL'S PORTFOLIO table with columns for Fund Name, No. of shares, Cost/share, Total cost, Current price, and Current value. It lists various funds under categories like Conservative, Aggressive, and Defensive.

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Mutual funds table with columns: Fund's name, unit cost, redemption price, monthly yield (%), 1997 yield (%), and NIS assets (millions). Includes sections for FLEXIBLE and SHARES.

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Jordan leads Bulls to 2OT win

CHICAGO (AP) — Michael Jordan rescued the Chicago Bulls again Monday night.

He hit a 3-pointer to force overtime, made a tying jumper in the first overtime and scored three of Chicago's final four points in the second extra period as the Bulls outlasted the San Antonio Spurs 87-83.

Jordan, who shot just 12-of-39 from the field, finished with 29 points and 13 rebounds. Dennis Rodman had 22 rebounds for the Bulls.

San Antonio rookie Tim Duncan also had 22 rebounds along with 19 points. David Robinson had 21 points and 12 rebounds for the Spurs.

Chicago led by four in the second overtime, but Robinson dunked and Rodman drew a technical foul for lowering his shoulder into his former teammate on the play. Jaren Jackson's free throw cut the lead to one with 2:14 remaining.

The Spurs had a chance for the lead but Jordan made a steal and Rodman and Ron Harper grabbed offensive rebounds as the Bulls kept the ball before Jordan scored again for an 85-82 lead.

Wizards 90, Jazz 86
Chris Webber scored 26 points and Rod Strickland had 17 points and nine assists as Washington snapped Utah's 14-game home

winning streak.

Karl Malone led the Jazz with 21 points, but last year's MVP missed three jumpers late in the game as Washington survived a Utah rally.

Both teams are now 1-2. Malone tied the game at 78 by hitting two free throws with 3:22 left, but Strickland and Calbert Cheaney hit clutch jumpers down the stretch to seal the victory.

Hornets 112, Heat 99
Glen Rice scored 28 points as visiting Charlotte won its first game of the season.

The Hornets, who lost their first two games, also got 20 points from David Wesley and 16 points apiece from Matt Geiger and Del Curry.

Rice, the NBA's third-leading scorer last season with a 26.8 average, scored a total of only 21 points in his first two games this season. But he snapped out of his slump against his former team, making 11 of 17 shots from the field and grabbing eight rebounds.

Jamal Mashburn scored 18 points for Miami, which was bidding for a 3-0 start for only the second time in franchise history.

Monday's results:
Charlotte 112, Miami 99
Washington 90, Utah 86
Chicago 87, San Antonio 83 (2OT)



DUNKIN' OVER DUNCAN - Chicago's Michael Jordan dunks in front of San Antonio's Tim Duncan.

Shaq fined, suspended for hitting Ostertag

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Shaquille O'Neal was suspended for one game and fined \$10,000 Monday for hitting Utah center Greg Ostertag last week between practice sessions.

The suspension means O'Neal would miss last night's game at Sacramento. Earlier Monday, O'Neal included his own Los Angeles Lakers in a written apology to Ostertag and admitted he had failed to set a good example for young people.

"I hope he accepts my apology and that he and I can put behind us any bad feelings," O'Neal said of Ostertag. "I made a mistake. Instead of focusing upon what is best for the team, I got caught up in the drama of the season's first game and reacted emotionally instead of logically."

An open-hand slap by O'Neal sent Ostertag to the floor near the basketball court at the Forum in Inglewood on Friday. The incident occurred as the Jazz were leaving the court after a pre-game shootaround and the Lakers were preparing to take the court.

Ostertag was not hurt, and went on to play that night, scoring only two points in the Jazz's 104-87 loss to the Lakers. O'Neal also apologized to his own team, specifically to owner Jerry Buss and assistant vice president Jerry West, and to fans.

"I acknowledge my responsibility in setting a good example for young people and I admit that I did not do so," O'Neal said.

Tyson expects lifetime ban

NEW YORK (AP) — Mike Tyson believes he will not regain his boxing license, suspended by the Nevada Athletic Commission because he bit Evander Holyfield twice during their heavyweight championship fight.

In a US television interview Monday night, Tyson was asked whether he thought the commission would reinstate him next year.

"Truly, I think I'll be banned for the rest of my life," Tyson said. "I truly think everyone hates me," he said. "I truly believe that. Because no one gets punished more than I am. But I understand, I'm a big boy and I believe big boys have big deals to be dealt with."

Tyson was suspended by the commission following the Holyfield fight last June at Las Vegas. He can request reinstatement after one year.

Tyson said he believed people want him to beg for mercy. "I'm not that way with anyone," he said. "This is who I am and maybe sometimes it's the insecurity. This is who I feel. Disgust, disdain and humiliation" when he watches tapes of the Holyfield fight. "I shouldn't have done that," he said of the biting. "It was just striking out and totally hated right there. I shouldn't have done that because for that one moment, I just forgot he was a human being." Tyson, who was joined for a segment of the interview by his wife, Dr. Monica Turner, and three of their children, said he has been in therapy since the fight, trying to change some things about himself. "I'm not a stable person. I have a problem. There's no doubt about that."

US Olympic ice hockey team has 17 NHLers

COLORADO SPRINGS (Reuters) — Philadelphia Flyers left winger John LeClair and New York Rangers defenseman Brian Leetch headed the list of 17 NHL players named Monday to the US Olympic hockey team.

General manager Lou Lamoriello and coach Ron Wilson selected the team that will compete in the 1998 Winter Games next February at Nagano, Japan.

The Olympic hockey "Dream Tournament" will be the first to feature NHL stars competing for their native countries as the professional league shuts down during the Games.

Three Chicago Blackhawks — defensemen Chris Chelios and Gary Suter and forward Tony Amonte — were named to the team, the most representation of any one NHL team.

Mike Richter of the New York Rangers, who backstopped Team USA to the World Cup triumph, will be one of the goaltenders. He is joined in net by former Rangers teammate and Florida Panthers netminder John Vanbiesbroeck.

Phoenix Coyotes forwards Keith Tkachuk and Jeremy Roenick also made the squad. Rounding out the initial 17

selections are forwards Adam Deadmarsh of the Colorado Avalanche, Brett Hull of the St. Louis Blues, Mike Modano of the Dallas Stars, Joel Otto of the Philadelphia Flyers and Doug Weight of the Edmonton Oilers.

Defensemen include the Hatcher brothers, Derian from the Dallas Stars and Kevin from the Pittsburgh Penguins, and Mathieu Schneider of the Toronto Maple Leafs.

An additional six players will be named to the squad no later than December 1.

Lamoriello is general manager of the New Jersey Devils and Wilson, who coached Team USA to a stunning victory over Canada in the inaugural 1996 World Cup, is coach of the Washington Capitals.

Chelios, Tkachuk, Leetch and Richter all have Olympic experience. Chelios was a member of the 1984 team, while Leetch and Richter played on the 1988 team that reached the medal round. Tkachuk played on the 1992 squad.

Joining Wilson on the bench will be John Cuniff and Paul Holmgren of the World Cup coaching staff as well as USA Hockey National Coach Jeff Jackson.

Canucks' defense porous

GREENSBORO, NC (AP) — All the Carolina Hurricanes needed to awake from a season-long offensive slump was a visit from the Vancouver Canucks.

The worst defensive club in the NHL allowed the Hurricanes two goals in a 46-second span in the first period, and two more in a nine-second span in the second period en route to a 5-3 Carolina victory Monday night.

Carolina goalie Trevor Kidd preserved the win with a point-blank save on Mike Silfving with five minutes remaining and a glove save on a blast by Mattias Ohlund a minute later.

The Hurricanes, struggling on the ice and at the box office since moving from Hartford, Connecticut, in May, had to deal with another problem — the arrest of goaltender Sean Burke. The four-time team MVP was arrested Sunday on an assault charge against his wife Leslie and was left out of Monday night's lineup.

Rangers 2, Oilers 2
Pat LaFontaine scored late in the second period as New York pulled off another comeback at Madison Square Garden.

LaFontaine's shot from in front of the net at 15:10 saved the Rangers, who allowed the visiting team to score first for the eighth time in nine home games this season.

The Rangers needed help from Mike Richter on Mats Lindgren's point-blank shot from the slot with two minutes left in regulation to preserve the tie.

New York's winless streak reached four games (0-2-2) and the Oilers extended their unbeaten streak against the Rangers to five (2-0-3).

Monday's results: Carolina 5, Vancouver 3; Montreal 6, Dallas 4; Edmonton 2, N.Y. Rangers 2; Philadelphia 5, St. Louis 1.

Garciaparra AL Rookie of the Year

NEW YORK (AP) — Nomar Garciaparra was the unanimous winner of the American League Rookie of the Year award Monday following one of the best seasons ever by a shortstop.

Garciaparra hit 306 for the Boston Red Sox with 30 homers, 98 RBIs, 122 runs and 22 steals. He set major league records for most RBIs by a leadoff hitter and most homers by a rookie shortstop.

The 24-year-old Garciaparra, the sixth unanimous winner of the AL Rookie award, received all 28 first-place votes and 140 points in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

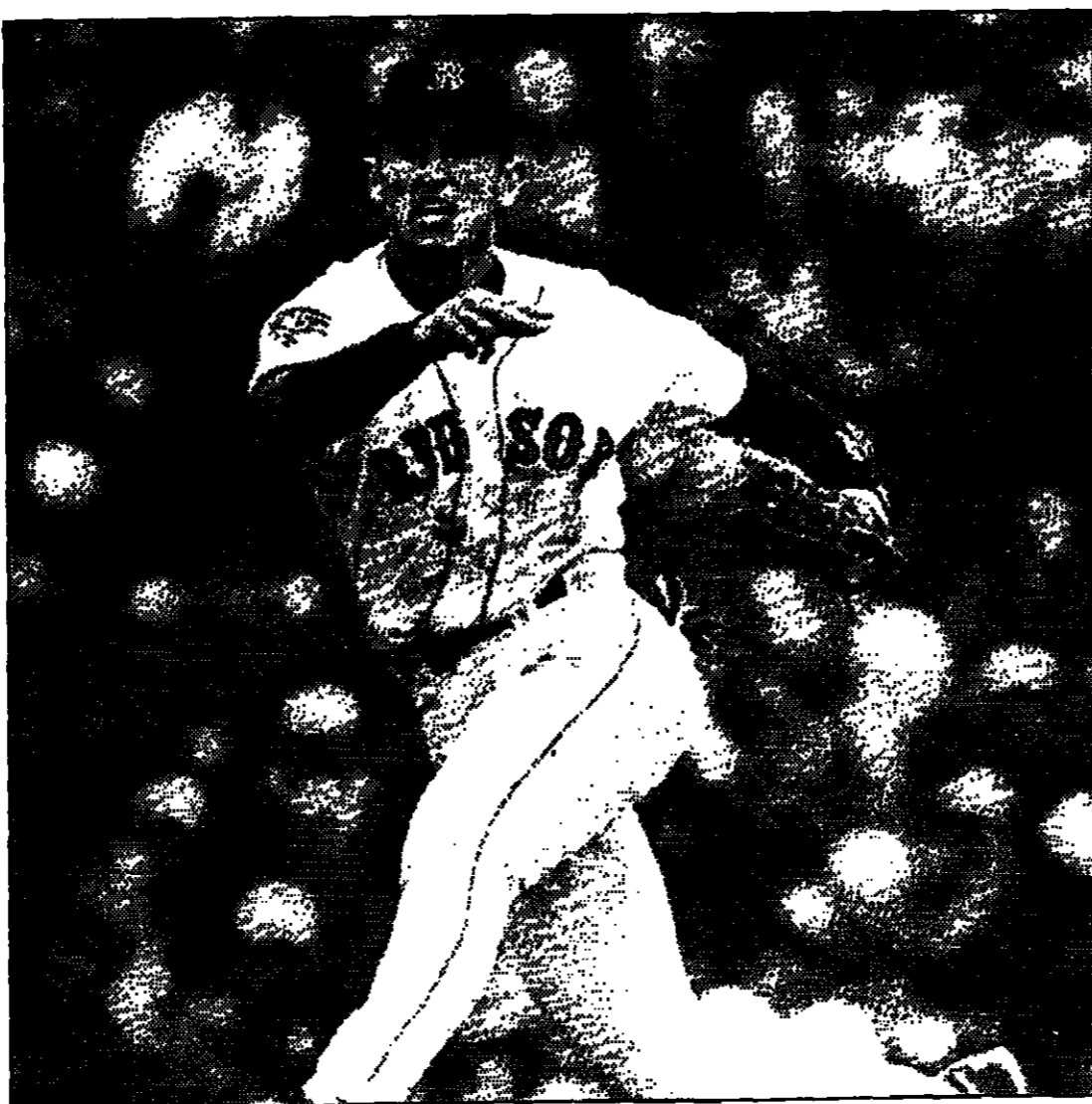
Other unanimous winners were Carlton Fisk (1972), Sandy Alomar Jr. (1990), Mark McGwire (1987) and Tim Lincecum (1993).

Jose Cruz Jr., an outfielder traded from the Seattle Mariners to the Toronto Blue Jays, was second with 61 points, followed by Anaheim pitcher Jason Dickson (27), Detroit shortstop Deivi Cruz (12), Cleveland pitcher Jaret Wright (7) and Chicago White Sox outfielder Mike Cameron (5).

Ballots were cast before the postseason, in which Wright went 3-0.

In a season where the Red Sox floundered, Garciaparra led the majors with 68 multi-hit games, and paced the AL with 209 hits and 11 triples. His 30-game hitting streak from July 26-August 29 set an AL rookie record, four more than Guy Curtright's previous mark in 1943.

Garciaparra broke Johnny Pesky's Red Sox rookie record for hits (205 in 1942), and his 365 total bases broke Ted Williams' team rookie record (344 in 1939). He also became



TOP OF THE CLASS - Red Sox shortstop Nomar Garciaparra.

the first Boston player to reach double figures in doubles, triples, homers and steals since Jackie Jensen in 1956. Garciaparra batted .241 in 24

games with the Red Sox in 1996, then won the shortstop job in spring training when John Valentini was moved to second base.

Chiefs win on halfback option

KANSAS CITY (AP) — Marcus Allen's legs have carried him throughout a 16-year career. His arm carried the Kansas City Chiefs to a 13-10 victory Monday night over the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Allen threw a 14-yard second-quarter touchdown pass to Damon Hughes, and the defense made it stand up, shutting down Kordell Stewart in a scoreless second half.

The Chiefs (7-2) could have and should have won by more as they remained a game behind Denver in the AFC West. But they'll take it.

After Pittsburgh took a 10-0 first quarter lead, Kansas City scored 13 in the second quarter — Allen's TD pass and field goals of 35 and 44 yards by Pete Stoyanovich.

Then the Chiefs spent the second half moving up and down the field but making critical mistakes. Allen fumbled backward after appearing to make a first down on a fourth down at the Pittsburgh 4 early in the fourth quarter, and Kimble Anders fumbled away the ball as the Chiefs were driving later in the period.

But each time a defense led by Derrick Thomas, Anthony Davis and Jerome Woods shut down the Steelers. Stewart, who has had explosive second halves, was contained. Jerome Bettis, who finished 17 for 103 and went over 1,000 yards for the season, had only 35 on seven carries after gaining 68 in the first quarter.

The loss dropped Pittsburgh (6-3) into a tie for first in the AFC Central with Jacksonville. The game was delayed for more than 10 minutes in the third quarter after Kansas City tight end Ted Popson was injured when he was hit under the jaw by the Steelers' Donnell Woolford. The preliminary diagnosis was mild head trauma and soreness in the neck.

Elvis Grbac, the Chiefs' starting quarterback, went off in the fourth quarter with a bruise to his left shoulder. He finished 16-of-29 for 172 yards. His backup, Rich Gamon, helped the Chiefs control the ball and run out the clock in the final minutes.

The Steelers, who have been stronger in the second half this year, got off to an uncharacteristically fast start.

The touchdown came first, seven minutes into the game on a 44-yard pass from Stewart to Courtney Hawkins on which two Chiefs missed Hawkins after he caught the ball about the 15.

Then Norm Johnson hit a 27-yard field goal set up largely by a 30-yard run by Bettis after Woolford's interception of a Grbac pass.

But the second quarter belonged to Kansas City. After Stoyanovich's two field goals, Woods picked off a Stewart pass and returned it 17 yards to the Pittsburgh 45.

Four plays and 55 seconds later from the 14, Grbac handed off to Allen, who floated a perfect spiral to Hughes, four yards behind the

Pittsburgh 10 0 0 0-10
Kansas City 0 13 0 0-13
First Quarter: Pittsburgh — Bettis 7-10; Stewart 3-24 (Johnson kick), 8:05. Pittsburgh — Jones 27-32 (Johnson kick), 8:55. Pittsburgh — Stoyanovich 35, 1:13. Kansas City — Stoyanovich 44, 1:34. Kansas City — Stoyanovich 44, 1:34. Kansas City — Stoyanovich 44, 1:34.

Second Quarter: Kansas City — Stoyanovich 44, 1:34. Kansas City — Stoyanovich 44, 1:34. Kansas City — Stoyanovich 44, 1:34. Kansas City — Stoyanovich 44, 1:34. Kansas City — Stoyanovich 44, 1:34.

Third Quarter: Kansas City — Stoyanovich 44, 1:34. Kansas City — Stoyanovich 44, 1:34. Kansas City — Stoyanovich 44, 1:34. Kansas City — Stoyanovich 44, 1:34. Kansas City — Stoyanovich 44, 1:34.

Fourth Quarter: Kansas City — Stoyanovich 44, 1:34. Kansas City — Stoyanovich 44, 1:34. Kansas City — Stoyanovich 44, 1:34. Kansas City — Stoyanovich 44, 1:34. Kansas City — Stoyanovich 44, 1:34.

Pittsburgh secondary. It was the fifth touchdown pass of Allen's career and his first since 1991.

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Aston Villa advance, Liverpool out

BIRMINGHAM (AP) - Aston Villa moved into the third round of the UEFA Cup with a 2-1 victory yesterday over Spain's Athletic Bilbao...

Former European Cup winners Liverpool dominated the second-round second-leg 2-0, taking a 63rd-minute penalty by Robbie Fowler...

Ian Taylor put Villa ahead in the 28th minute, capitalizing on a grave mistake by Athletic Bilbao goalkeeper Imanol Etxeberria.

The second goal fired up Bilbao and made the final 40 minutes interesting after a boring first half and a scoreless draw in the first leg.

Spanish international Julen Guerrero entered as a substitute and almost immediately fired a point-blank shot in the 54th on Villa goalkeeper Mark Bosnich.

Substitute Javi Gonzalez made it 2-1 in the 70th on a half volley from 18 meters that deflected in off Villa defender Gareth Southgate.

Bosnich had to make several key saves in the final 20 minutes including one off a close-in header in the 82nd minute as the Spaniards pressed constantly.

In other English UEFA Cup action yesterday, Strassbourg dumped Liverpool 3-2 on aggregate after the English club threw everything they had at their French opponents but failed to find three goals at Anfield.

His goal set up a desperate finale to a match that could easily have seen Liverpool four or five goals ahead but for an exceptional night for Strassbourg goalkeeper Alexander Venzel.

It was the second season in a row that Liverpool had been knocked out by a French club and the second that they had narrowly failed to make up a 3-0 first leg deficit.

Lyon 1, Inter Milan 3 Francesco Moriero scored two goals to pace Inter Milan to a 3-1 victory over Lyon.

Inter advances on a 4-3 aggregate.

OFI 3, Auxerre 2 Nikos Papadopoulos scored two goals for OFI Crete.

Despite the loss, the French team advanced to the next round of the competition on 5-4 aggregate.

Auxerre had won 3-1 the first leg in France two weeks ago.

Bastia 3, Steaua Bucharest 2 Bastia rallied in the second half to win, but Steaua Bucharest advanced on an away goal decision.

Steaua Bucharest won the first leg 1-0 at home. After the second leg both teams were tied 3-3 on total goals, but the Romanians scored twice in the opening half in Bastia behind two goals by Catalin Munteanu.

Dinamo Tbilisi 0, Braga 1 Toni Duarte scored the only goal to lead Braga.



OF THE SAME MIND - Dutch Twente Enschede defender Niels Kamphuis (r) duels for the ball with Danish AGF striker Carsten Hallum in their UEFA Cup second-round, second-leg match in Enschede.

The Georgian club led the attack in the first period, but was unable to break through Braga's defense.

ago, Braga demolished Dinamo Tbilisi 4-0. Enschede 0, Aarhus 0. Twente Enschede progressed

thanks to the away goal rule after drawing 0-0 with Denmark's AGF Aarhus.

A goal away from home in the first leg's 1-1 draw was enough to see the Dutch side through.

Allan Resse nearly broke the deadlock for Aarhus in the 55th minute but his curling right-foot shot crashed into the bar after beating Twente goalkeeper Sander Boschker.

Twente had the best chance of the first half when Anwar Ajoupp headed on a corner from the right by Theo ten Caat only to see Michael Nonbo clear it from the line.

Aarhus's best chance before the break came in the 21st minute when Jesper Soerensen split open Twente's defense with a long pass but goalkeeper Boschker beat Lars Lambaek in a race for the ball.

UEFA Cup second-round, second-leg results: In Munich: Bayern (Germany) 2, Rapid Vienna (Austria) 1. In Rome: Lazio 3, Fiorentina 1.

In Moscow: Dynamo Tbilisi (Georgia) 0, Braga (Portugal) 1. In Warsaw: Wisla (Poland) 2, Arsenal (England) 1.

In Zagreb: Croatia Zagreb (Croatia) 2, MTK Budapest (Hungary) 0. In Rome: Lazio 3, Fiorentina 1.

Ivanisevic: No more Davis Cup for Croatia

ZAGREB (AP) - Croatia's most famous sportsman, Goran Ivanisevic, said yesterday that he will no longer play Davis Cup tennis for his country after a row over who controls Croatian tennis.

The quarrel reportedly went as far as avid tennis fan President Franjo Tudjman, with Ivanisevic appealing in vain to Tudjman to intervene.

Instead, Croatian Tennis Association boss Suvad Rizvanbegovic has reportedly threatened to order Ivanisevic drafted into the Croatian army.

Ivanisevic, currently No. 4 in the ATP rankings, told the daily Sportzke Novosti he was quitting Davis Cup play because of havoc in the Croatian Tennis Association and differences with its Rizvanbegovic.

"As long as Suvad Rizvanbegovic is president of the CTA, I will not play in the Davis Cup," Ivanisevic said.

Last month, Rizvanbegovic, a top executive in Croatia's largest insurance company, ousted the selector of the national squad, former tennis pro Zeljko Franulovic.

Ivanisevic and Franulovic together own the Croatian Open tournament. The tennis star claimed that Rizvanbegovic was out to clear the Tennis Association of critics, including Ivanisevic's father Srdjan, who resigned after Franulovic's ouster.

As the rift in Croatian tennis grew, Ivanisevic sought support from Tudjman, an avid tennis player and fan who rarely misses a big match in Croatia and has actively intervened in the country's soccer, changing the name of Zagreb's best team.

"I have used my fame and popularity in tournaments throughout the world, with a headband of the Croatian flag across my forehead, and won countless victories for our fledgling country," Ivanisevic said.

One year of military service is mandatory for men in Croatia above the age 18. Exceptions are often made for athletes who are expected in return to act as goodwill ambassadors for Croatia, and to play for its national squads.

Earlier this year, basketball star Toni Kukoc of the Chicago Bulls, was ordered to report to the Defense Ministry concerning his military duties. The call coincided with announcements by Kukoc that he was retiring from Croatia's national team.

Croats were outraged, and officials eventually withdrew the order to Kukoc and apologized.

Stockholm Open Boris Becker swept aside third seed Carlos Moya 6-4, 6-3 in the first round yesterday.

Becker, four times a winner of the tournament, led the first set 5-2 but Spain's Moya battled to hold on until the German served out in the 10th game.

In the second set, Becker broke Moya in the first game but his opponent immediately broke back.

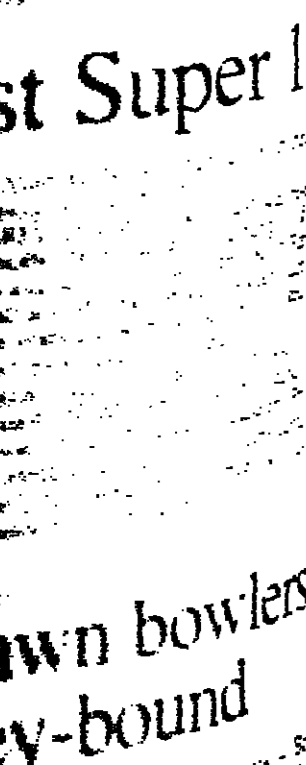
However, Becker stormed through the rest of the match for his first victory against the Spaniard in three meetings.

Two Swedes moved into the second round of the Open. Magnus Gustafsson straight-setted Marcos Ondruska of South Africa, 6-2, 6-2 while Magnus Larsson had more problems before overpowering compatriot Fredrik Jonsson 7-5, 7-5.



CLASSIFIEDS

Multiple classified advertisement sections including: RATES (listing various ad packages), DWELLINGS (listing properties in Jerusalem and Sharon Area), SITUATIONS VACANT (listing job openings), VEHICLES (listing cars for sale), and PASSPORT (listing passport services).



A large advertisement for a 'SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY CLASSIFIED OFFER!' featuring a 10% discount coupon and details about the offer's duration and terms.

A large advertisement for 'SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY CLASSIFIED OFFER!' with the headline 'We want your used car classified ad...' and 'And that isn't all... Save another 10%!'.

Rock and rolling in money

David Bowie was named last week Britain's richest rock star, with a personal fortune of £550 million (NIS 3,300m.), putting him ahead of Paul McCartney for the first time.

In the first survey of its kind, *Business Age* magazine said the former Beatle had earned £520m., while heart-throb balladeer Tom Jones was third with £275m.

Bowie, whose hits in a 30-year career include "Life on Mars," "Rock 'n' Roll Suicide" and "The Man Who Sold the World," broke new financial ground this year with a \$55m. Wall Street bond issue secured against his back catalog.

Unlike many rock stars who saw their wealth slip away in a haze of drink and drugs, Bowie took firm control of his finances during the 1980s, putting behind him the excesses of his earlier years. McCartney's wealth continues to grow, despite the fact that the Beatles broke up over a quarter of a century ago.

Last year was the most commercially successful ever for the defunct band as fans rushed to buy the "Anthology" records, which sold 13 million copies.

Tom Jones' position in third slot was "largely due to his live performances in the United States over the past 25 years and a quite incredible work rate," *Business Age* said.

It estimated that during the course of his career, the Welsh singer had earned £750m. from

performances, singles, albums and business interests.

Business Age said Britain's 50 richest pop stars were, all together, worth nearly £3.8 billion.

The magazine compiled the list by examining the company accounts, record sales and other earnings of major British pop acts over the past 35 years.

Most of them laid down the basis of their wealth in careers that began in the 1960s. Britain's latest pop sensation, The Spice Girls, are in 42nd place, with £14.5m. for each of the five band members.

Apart from The Spice Girls, there are only two women in the top 50 - Annie Lennox at 34 with £26m. and Kate Bush at 38 with £18.5m.

The British pop top 20

1. David Bowie - £550m.
2. Paul McCartney - £520m.
3. Tom Jones - £275m.
4. Phil Collins - £220m.
5. Elton John - £200m.
6. Mick Jagger - £135m.
7. Eric Clapton - £120m.
8. George Harrison - £105m.
9. Sting - £97m.
10. Keith Richards - £96m.
11. George Michael - £95m.
12. Ringo Starr - £93m.
13. Mark Knopfler - £85m.
14. Dave Gilmour - £75m.
15. Roger Waters - £70m.
16. Rod Stewart - £66m.
17. Robert Plant - £60m.
18. Jimmy Page - £55m.
19. Cliff Richard - £52m.
20. Charlie Watts - £50m.



David Bowie: 'The Man Who Sold the World,' is worth NIS 3,300m. (File Photo: Alon Ron/Israel Sun)

A 'Demon' in Haifa

By HELEN KAYE

Bewitched, bothered and bewildered is a good way to describe *Teibele and Her Demon*, which opens at the Haifa Theater tomorrow. It's not a bad way to describe the theater either, or at least it was until September 1 when Roni Pinkowitz, 32, took over as general manager from Oded Kotler.

Teibele is based on two stories by Nobelist Isaac Bashevis Singer, who wrote the play with Eve Friedman. As do all Singer tales, *Teibele* probes the sublimated eroticism and superstition in the 19th-century Jewish communities of the Eastern European shtetl.

Teibele (Maya Maoz) is a young *aguna* for whom remarriage is forbidden by Halacha. Elhanan (Moshe Bekker) is a penniless yeshiva student in love with her. Singer spins a web of fantasy, passion and deceit that ends in tragedy.

"Extraordinary people who live in a narrow world of taboos and superstitions have to find an outlet for their desires," director Mikhail Resnikovich says of the main characters in *Teibele*, which he calls "an uninhibited and universal love story."

Resnikovich, making his local directorial debut, has directed the play at the Kiev National Theater, where he is general director. He grew up in the same small Polish town that is the setting for the play.

This is Pinkowitz's first production as head of the theater where he was in-house director until he went to study for his MA in theater management at Middlesex University in the UK last year. Pinkowitz was the compromise choice to run the Haifa Theater. Former HT general manager Oded Kotler, who resigned last May, was grooming him for the post, but he was an outsider candidate as far as the board was concerned. They wanted actor Doron Tavori, but Haifa Mayor Amram Mitzna didn't. Tavori was too elitist he said. Mitzna prevailed.

Pinkowitz has wasted no time. Between almost endless meetings, he has supervised the production of *Teibele*. Rehearsals for a revival of Yehoshua Sobol's *Ghetto*.

"I had this teacher there, Earle Broadus, who believed that we had to treat music like life, explore it and



'Teibele and Her Demon' is 'an uninhibited and universal love story,' says director Mikhail Resnikovich. (Eyal Landessman)

which the author will direct, get underway next week.

"I received the season pretty well planned," says Pinkowitz, adding pointedly, "and in the Israel of 1997 we need to honor agreements."

He has made a two-year master plan for himself and the theater. He wants, like Ofira Henig is doing at the Jerusalem Khan, to go back to the concept of an acting ensemble rather than hiring stars per production. He wants "a stable of young writers and a pool of people from cinema, TV and the literary world so we can get some ferment going here. I'd like to present lots of works in progress next year."

However, there's still a little administrative confusion. Pinkowitz thought he would be artistic director and No. 1 in the theater with a general manager alongside but subordinate to him "like [Yevgeny] Arty and Ori Levy] at the Geshen Theater. It's not good the other way around."

Pinkowitz doesn't make a big deal of things; he likes to concentrate on priorities, which at the moment is to bring audiences back to the Haifa Theater which, for the last year or so, has limped along on mainly imports and reruns of its most successful show ever, Edna Mazia's *Games in the Backyard*.

The administration? "We'll work it out," Pinkowitz says.

The 'mindless' way to play classical music

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Clarinetist Richard Stoltzman is a man of many parts. Baseball fan, cordon-bleu pastry chef, promoter of contemporary music, and occasional jazz and "crossover" artist.

But none of those brought him here. Stoltzman is preparing for his Israel debut as the featured soloist with the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra and others. He has brought to scores of recordings a stylistic versatility that has brought him a growing resume of accolades.

In addition to Stoltzman's performances with the JSO tonight and Thursday, he joins the Jerusalem Quartet on Saturday night for a program of chamber music.

Composer-conductor Lukas Foss will be on the podium for the JSO performances which will include his Clarinet Concerto, dedicated to Stoltzman.

"At one point he gives instructions to play 'mindlessly,'" Stoltzman says of Foss's composition. "I asked him what that means, and he said, 'You have to sound uninvolved, more removed and dreamy.' Then at another point, I have to play 'with obsession.' At the end, the musicians

and conductor continue with the motions of making music but actually are not playing at all. It is intriguing and kind of humorous."

Stoltzman says he feels privileged to be playing a piece under the baton of its composer, but only up to a point. "When composers conduct, they are involved in listening to their work and they are lost in their creation. They listen to themselves being revealed."

Stoltzman and the JSO are also performing a nine-minute piece by Leonard Bernstein originally written for big band.

The clarinetist is a champion of contemporary music, having commissioned numerous concert and chamber-music works. "But I have to fight to play new music, because many presenters and orchestras are just not interested in this."

Audiences generally avoid contemporary music as well. "It makes no sense," Stoltzman says. "After all, people enjoy traveling to new places and finding exotic things. They should hope for the same feeling in the concert hall."

NEW EXPERIENCES were not exactly what Stoltzman was seeking when, as a Yale University student in 1965, he started learning to

living, he said, and he made all his students come to his home and cook occasionally.

When Stoltzman began performing regularly in London, he used to give recitals at the Wigmore Hall. "The cordon-bleu school was right around the corner, and I took lessons there." Now, whenever he has time, he gets into the kitchen and whips up treats for his wife, Lucy, and children Margaret and Peter. "We all love desserts," he says.

The experience that most concerns Stoltzman is that of creating music for a live audience. "But younger people are not as familiar with the excitement [generated by an] orchestra. Maybe music in general is not that special [for young people] any more. These youngsters hear music everywhere: in the elevators, in airplanes, in shopping malls, wherever they go. But I'm sure youngsters who are taken to the symphony hall will immediately realize its special charm."

In spite of his preference for symphonic music, Stoltzman is as comfortable playing jazz and crossover music as he is the standard and contemporary classical repertoire. "I don't know really what this word 'style' means. Music should be communicative;

that's why composers write it. I play only music I care for, music I feel I can communicate with. I cannot play music which doesn't speak to me of which I am not part of."

That is why Stoltzman does not play klezmer music. "I'm not Jewish, although I was once listed as a Jewish musician. I was often asked to do klezmer, but in order to do it I would have to study it and like it and become more involved with it.

"I had a student, Joel Rubin, who began playing klezmer because of me, so he said, because I always teach my students to try new things. He went on to study in Israel and then he inaugurated his own klezmer band in Berlin of all places. This is quite ironic, I must admit."

Meanwhile, the baseball fan is weighing his options. He doesn't go to as many games as he did when he moved with his family to Boston 12 years ago. "We somewhat got disillusioned with the big strike," he says. "These guys were earning astronomical amounts of money and yet they wanted even more."

He then playfully adds, "Who knows? Last night, the Celtics won their season opener against the Bulls. Maybe I'll switch to basketball now."



Richard Stoltzman find variety in it, enjoying the spices it can give us," he recalls. "Music should take its cue from

CLASSIC DISCS

Bach at his best

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Five new Bach discs from Hansler Classic showcase the composer at his stylistically versatile best. Each of these discs is a gem in its own right, all performed by first-rate musicians who are deeply involved in the stylistic approach to the music they play. Each disc is a most enjoyable effort, enabling one to enjoy a particular facet of Bach's multifaceted musical canon. Together these five discs provide a musical experience that is both rewarding and uplifting.

Since much of Bach's music was written to be performed in church, most of his choral pieces were sacred music. But he also wrote some secular cantatas. The account of the more well-known Coffee and the less frequently performed Hunt cantatas by Helmuth Rilling and his Gächinger Kantorei Stuttgart with the Bach Collegium Stuttgart (98.161) is delightful.

If you are not acquainted with these works, you might get lost in the all-too-familiar choral style and believe you are yet again in Bach's liturgical world. But follow the words closely or, even better, listen more carefully to the music and you will at once be engaged in an obviously secular piece, very dramatic in nature - a virtual mini-opera.

This is also true for the cantata *The Contest Between Phoebus and Pan* (Geschwinde, Ihr Wirbelenden Winde), which Rilling and his forces perform in an exciting and dramatic way (98.162). The soloists in both these recordings are exceptional.

and the two discs are a worthy addition to Rilling's impressively growing choral output on disc and in the concert hall.

Which is the proper keyboard instrument on which to play Bach's music - the organ, the piano or the harpsichord? Musicians and musicologists will never agree on one answer, and perhaps music-lovers are the better for it. In this way, we can enjoy musicians who play all these instruments to delve deep into Bach's immense musical legacy.

Kay Johannsen plays six Bach trio sonatas on organ (98.113). The result is one of the most captivating discs I have heard in a long time.

The wide scope of the organ, often sounding like a wind ensemble and not a single instrument, is simply amazing. And the musicianship of the performer provides a rendition that is anything but academic, as many organ performances tend to be.

Harpichordist Robert Hill plays in a lighter vein when he accompanies violinist Dmitry Sitkovetsky in Bach's six violin sonatas (98.154). This is another highly enjoyable recording, in which the keyboard is somewhat of a "second fiddle" to the violin. Sitkovetsky is in fine form, but his playing is not always as involved as one might like.

Playing Bach on the piano is a sort of compromise between the organ and the harpsichord, which does not always work to the best. Yet Czaja Sager manages to play the *Italian Concerto*, the *French Overture* and four duets in a very Bachlike style which is a pure pleasure (98.116).

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS LAST WEEK'S ON WEEK-END CHARTS			
#1	24	ARTIST	TITLE
#2	7	EVYATAR GOLAN	WITHOUT YOU
#3	4	EVYATAR BANAI	EVYATAR BANAI
#4	2	SHABAK SAMECH	LIVE
#5	5	BACKSTREET BOYS	B'ATIFA SHEL MAMTAK
#6	8	THE VERVE	BACKSTREET'S BACK
#7	9	YEHUDA POLIKER	URBAN HYMNS
#8	3	GIDI GOV	LIVE
#9	10	TEA PACKS	SHIRIM SHEL NESHIKHA LA DOD
#10	6	RAMI KLEINSTEIN	KOL MA SHEBITRTZI
#11	21	ROLLING STONES	BRIDGES OF BABYLON
#12	23	V/A	VOLUME 13
#13	RE	OST	PARTY TIME 4
#14	11	ARIK EINSTEIN	LE'AN PARHU...
#15	15	RAMI KLEINSTEIN	COLLECTION

Tower Records' top-selling albums for last week

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مكتبة القدس

CRITICS' CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Lukas Foss, who was the music director of the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra-IBA in the mid-'70s, returns to the orchestra for a program featuring orchestral excerpts from Mozart's Don Giovanni and Schumann's fourth symphony...



The JSO plays Lukas Foss's second clarinet concerto.

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

L.A. CONFIDENTIAL — This glamorous-looking thriller takes place in early 1950s Southern California and follows several police officers as they become embroiled in the investigation of a violent plot that links corrupt city officials, organized crime figures and a whole twisted web of millionaires, prostitutes and snaky celebrity journalists...

ENGLISH THEATER

HELEN KAYE

Not one but two shows to choose from. In Jerusalem it's the Jerusalem English Speaking Theater (JEST) production of Nicholas Wright's Mrs. Klein starring Dawn Nadel in the title role...

Brian Friel's plays have found audiences worldwide because although they're set in Friel's native Ireland, they touch on the human condition everywhere...

TV

CHANNEL 1

8:30 News flash 8:31 News in Arabic 8:45 Good Morning Israel

JORDAN TV

14:00 Holy Koran 14:10 Johnny Quest 14:30 Super Dave 15:00 Secrets of Treasure Island

EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 Book of Genesis 8:30 Family Album 8:30 Sciences 8:40 English 9:40 Arithmetic

CHANNEL 1

15:30 Pink Panther 15:35 Super Ben 16:00 Boy Meets World - new comedy series about two teenagers from very different backgrounds

CHANNEL 1

15:30 Pink Panther 15:35 Super Ben 16:00 Boy Meets World - new comedy series about two teenagers from very different backgrounds

ARABIC PROGRAMS

18:30 Family Affairs 19:00 News 19:30 News flash 19:31 Zappy Zappy - pop hits

CHANNEL 2

6:15 Today's programs 6:30 Rupert Bear 7:00 Colise with Tel-Ad 8:00 Ruby 10:00 Picket Fences 11:00 Thumper Alley - comedy with Ed Asner

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TV

CHANNEL 1

8:30 News flash 8:31 News in Arabic 8:45 Good Morning Israel

JORDAN TV

14:00 Holy Koran 14:10 Johnny Quest 14:30 Super Dave 15:00 Secrets of Treasure Island

EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 Book of Genesis 8:30 Family Album 8:30 Sciences 8:40 English 9:40 Arithmetic

CHANNEL 1

15:30 Pink Panther 15:35 Super Ben 16:00 Boy Meets World - new comedy series about two teenagers from very different backgrounds

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ARABIC PROGRAMS

18:30 Family Affairs 19:00 News 19:30 News flash 19:31 Zappy Zappy - pop hits

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PRIME TIME TV

Table with 6 columns (1-6) and 6 rows (19:30-23:00) listing TV programs and channels.

(1940) - a West Point graduate is sent to command the Santa Fe trail and comes up against a rebel and his former classmate. With Errol Flynn, Olivia de Havilland, Raymond Massey and Ronald Reagan...

6:00 Open University 6:00 A Healthy Body 6:30 The Nature of Australia, part 4: Land of Flood and Fire 8:30 New World, Saving the Planet, part 6 (pp)

6:00 Eurosports 6:00 Motorsports 6:00 Cricket from 16:00 National Geographic: Ocean Drifters 20:00 VIP 20:30 The Ticket 21:00 Dailine 22:00 Euro PGA Golf 23:00 Tonight Show 24:00 Late Night with Conan O'Brien 1:00 Later 1:30 NBC News 2:00 Tonight Show 3:00 Intermitt

6:00 Bodies in Motion 16:00 Bodies in Motion 16:30 Brazilian League Soccer 18:00 Samsung Sports 18:30 National League Handball 19:30 Sports Portrait 20:00 MLS Soccer 20:30 Soccer 21:15 Champions' League Soccer Live 00:30 Boxing

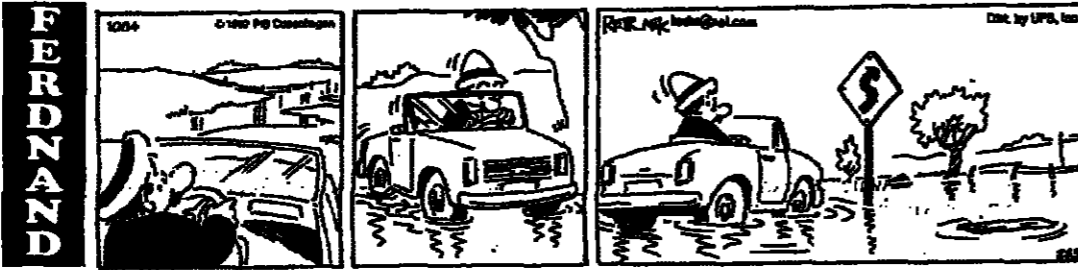
6:00 Executive Lifestyles 6:00 The Ticket 7:00 VIP 7:30 NBC News 8:00 MSNBC News 8:00 Today Show 10:00 European Soccer Box 11:00 European Money Wheel 16:30 Casuelle Lifestyle 17:00 Star Gardens 17:30 Interiors By

6:00 Eurosports 6:00 Motorsports 6:00 Cricket from 16:00 National Geographic: Ocean Drifters 20:00 VIP 20:30 The Ticket 21:00 Dailine 22:00 Euro PGA Golf 23:00 Tonight Show 24:00 Late Night with Conan O'Brien 1:00 Later 1:30 NBC News 2:00 Tonight Show 3:00 Intermitt

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CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

- ACROSS: 1 Audience left part of theatre (5,5) 9 Go back always to this portrait (4) 10 Advise colleague in unofficial manner (10) 11 Seek profit, having lost one's shirt (6) 12 Lecturer holds I must be better prepared (7) 15 Circle lake, being after somewhere to sleep (7) 16 This Italian capital fellow (5) 17 Musical animals (4) 18 Well-liked, but expensive (4) 19 To be of use, verse must be translated (5) 21 Fan has a look at large animal (7)

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solutions.

QUICK CROSSWORD section with clues and solutions.

MOVIES section listing various films and theaters.

US pledges to keep military aid intact

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON - US Secretary of Defense William Cohen said yesterday that the Clinton Administration would preserve Israel's \$1.86 billion military assistance package in next year's budget. The amount centered on the IDF's modernization plans over the next eight to 10 years, Cohen told Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

"We have looked at their overall requirements in terms of aircraft, other types of equipment, field equipment. And I think it's a very responsible proposal over a very long period," Cohen said.

He also said he had accepted Mordechai's invitation and would visit Israel next month.

The two had a lengthy discussion on the Iranian nuclear and missile threat, Mordechai said that they

saw "eye-to-eye" on the matter. He thanked President Bill Clinton, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Cohen for their efforts to reduce the Iranian threat.

Mordechai told Israeli reporters that the Pentagon met all of Jerusalem's requests.

On the peace process, Mordechai said the US's political, economic and technological assistance to Israel "certainly enables us to feel strong, adds to stability in the Middle East and prevents any force from unleashing its force upon us."

Cohen said that "the most important thing for the State of Israel is to remain secure, that if Israel is secure, then it can proceed with negotiations for peace."

"And to the extent that Israel is not secure, then I think that would inhibit the peace process itself. So

I think the most important thing is to maintain our pledge to help Israel maintain its security and safety, and from a position of military capability, to defend itself, to then negotiate a peaceful resolution in the Middle East."

Mordechai also said that Israelis had no reason to fear any repercussions from the Iraqi dispute with the UN and the US over the weapons inspection regime.

He told a Pentagon press conference after the meeting with Cohen, that the government is following the situation closely and is confident that the US will "take the right steps."

"I don't think the citizens of Israel should be concerned. Residents of the State of Israel can relax... I don't think there's any concrete threat that Israelis should be worried about," Mordechai said.



Remembering in Romania

Iulian Sorin (left) a leader of the Romanian Jewish Communities, and Rabbi Menahem Hacohen, acting chief rabbi of Romania, yesterday unveil a plaque in Bucharest honoring the victims of a 1941 pogrom in the Romanian capital.

(Reuters)

WEATHER

Haiti	19-22	clear
Algeria	15-20	clear
Tel Aviv	18-22	clear
Jerusalem	12-17	clear
Berlin	15-22	clear
Eilat	22-27	clear

Forecast: No change in temperature. Rain will stop gradually.

AROUND THE WORLD

	Low	High	Wind	Cloud	
Antwerp	01	34	08	48	clear
Berlin	-01	30	04	38	clear
Buenos Aires	19	26	21	70	partly cloudy
Cairo	17	23	24	77	clear
Chicago	02	30	24	39	cloudy
Copenhagen	02	30	13	57	clear
Frankfurt	02	30	10	50	clear
Geneva	02	30	11	52	cloudy
Helsinki	02	30	11	52	clear
Hong Kong	21	27	26	77	clear
Jakarta	16	21	21	73	clear
London	07	45	13	55	partly cloudy
Los Angeles	10	21	13	55	clear
Mexico	10	21	13	55	clear
Montreal	05	25	11	51	clear
Moscow	05	25	11	51	clear
New York	11	18	18	54	rain
Osaka	11	18	18	54	rain
Paris	06	16	16	51	cloudy
Rome	06	16	16	51	cloudy
Singapore	26	32	23	73	partly cloudy
Sydney	18	24	23	77	rain
Tokyo	13	20	13	55	clear
Toronto	06	16	16	51	cloudy
Vancouver	06	16	16	51	cloudy
Zurich	-01	30	07	48	clear

Shahak: Yassin more militant since release

By LIAT COLLINS

Since Sheikh Ahmed Yassin's release from prison last month, his statements have grown more militant and he is now the center of gravity in Gaza, Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday.

The Palestinian Authority is aware that Yassin's release has strengthened Hamas, Shahak said. A senior intelligence officer

said the PA is doing more to fight terror, but there is still no intensive action against the terror infrastructure.

His statements caused Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak to say that the constant changes in the analyses regarding PA action on terror are being cynically used by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

Shahak also said the Iranian Russian Shihab 3 long-range missile project is continuing, despite the denials by Russian Foreign

Minister Yevgeny Primakov. Shahak said that due to diplomatic and economic interests, cooperation between Russia and Iran is likely to go on. But because of pressure on them, they will hide it and it will become increasingly difficult to assess its true scope.

Syria, the intelligence officer said, continues to improve its military capabilities, even as it pursues the diplomatic option. It recently received 50 T-55 tanks from Ukraine and is scheduled to receive 200 more.

Catholic official repudiates report on PA persecution of Christians

By HAIM SHAPIRO

A Catholic official yesterday characterized a government report, which said that Christians are being persecuted by the Palestinian Authority, as being baseless.

The unsigned report said that cemeteries are being vandalized, churches are being burglarized and Islamic militants fearlessly harass Christian youngsters.

But Wadie Abu-Nassar, director of the Great Jubilee 2000 office of the Assembly of Catholic Ordinaries of the Holy Land, said he had personally checked every case of alleged persecution mentioned in the report, but could find no basis for the allegations.

For example, he said, the report had said that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat had sum-

marily taken over a building belonging to the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate as his headquarters in Bethlehem. Abu-Nassar said that officials of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate at the highest level had insisted they had invited Arafat.

The report also suggested that Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah is, in effect, a spokesman for the PA. Abu-Nassar said that it was only natural that the patriarch should speak out about the concerns facing his community.

"He has always spoken of the problems of his faithful and the fact is that the Palestinian have more problems than others," Abu-Nassar said.

Abu-Nassar added it is true there were some incidents of action against Christians - in the autonomous areas. But they were not carried out by the PA, but by

"childish elements." In fact, he added, there is a high percentage of Christians in leading PA positions.

Meanwhile, Tourism Minister Moshe Katzav met with Vatican Ambassador Archbishop Andrea Montezemolo yesterday to plan for a massive influx of Christian pilgrims expected to mark the year 2000.

The Holy Land's Council of Bishops is scheduled to meet next week in Jerusalem to discuss arrangements for the millennium. Montezemolo said he would examine the possibility of using Church land to erect temporary accommodations for the pilgrims.

Katzav told the papal envoy that he will receive the Israel 2000 Report on the preparations within the next two weeks.

Jay Bushinsky contributed to this report.

Winning cards and numbers

In yesterday's first daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the eight of spades, the king of hearts, the nine of diamonds and the ace of clubs.

In the second drawing, the winning numbers were the seven of spades, the king of hearts, the jack of diamonds and the eight of clubs.

In the weekly Lotto drawing, the winning numbers were one, four, 16, 17, 32 and 45. The supplementary number was 20.

Shuhada St. opens to Palestinian buses

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Despite protests from Hebron settlers, the IDF announced yesterday that Palestinian buses could join other Arab vehicles permitted to travel down a key access route to the city's Jewish enclave.

Shuhada Street was opened to Palestinian automobiles and municipal vehicles last week. Buses were permitted on the road as of yesterday.

Deputy Defense Minister Silvan Stalom, who visited the area yesterday and met with IDF commanders, including OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan, said the reopening of the road to Palestinian

traffic seemed to be running smoothly.

Jewish leaders in Hebron charged that the Arab traffic was a threat to their security.

Shalom responded by stressing that IDF troops in Hebron must continue to safeguard the Jewish community, especially since Shuhada Street is the only access route to the Jewish community.

Shalom rejected demands by Hebron settlers to build 300 housing units in the area, saying that while he supports construction throughout Israel, their request was not realistic. He said that any additional building in Hebron would have to be done according to the community's natural proportions.

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